# No scalawag generals in military, says Defensor

Story on Page A2

## 2 terrorist suspects trained in MILF camp

TWO of 21 members of the extremist Islamic group Jemaah Islamiyah (JI) arrested recently in Singapore are linked to the Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF), the Singapore government said yesterday.

The other 19 suspects, all Singaporeans, had undegone military training at al-Qaida camps in Afghanistan.

2 TERRORISTS /A16

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS

## Nani feels left out of photo op

By Dona Z. Pazzibugan

SAYANG NGA DI AKO NAKA-SALI, E!

THE MAN may have been left out of the power shoot, but he thinks it's cool.

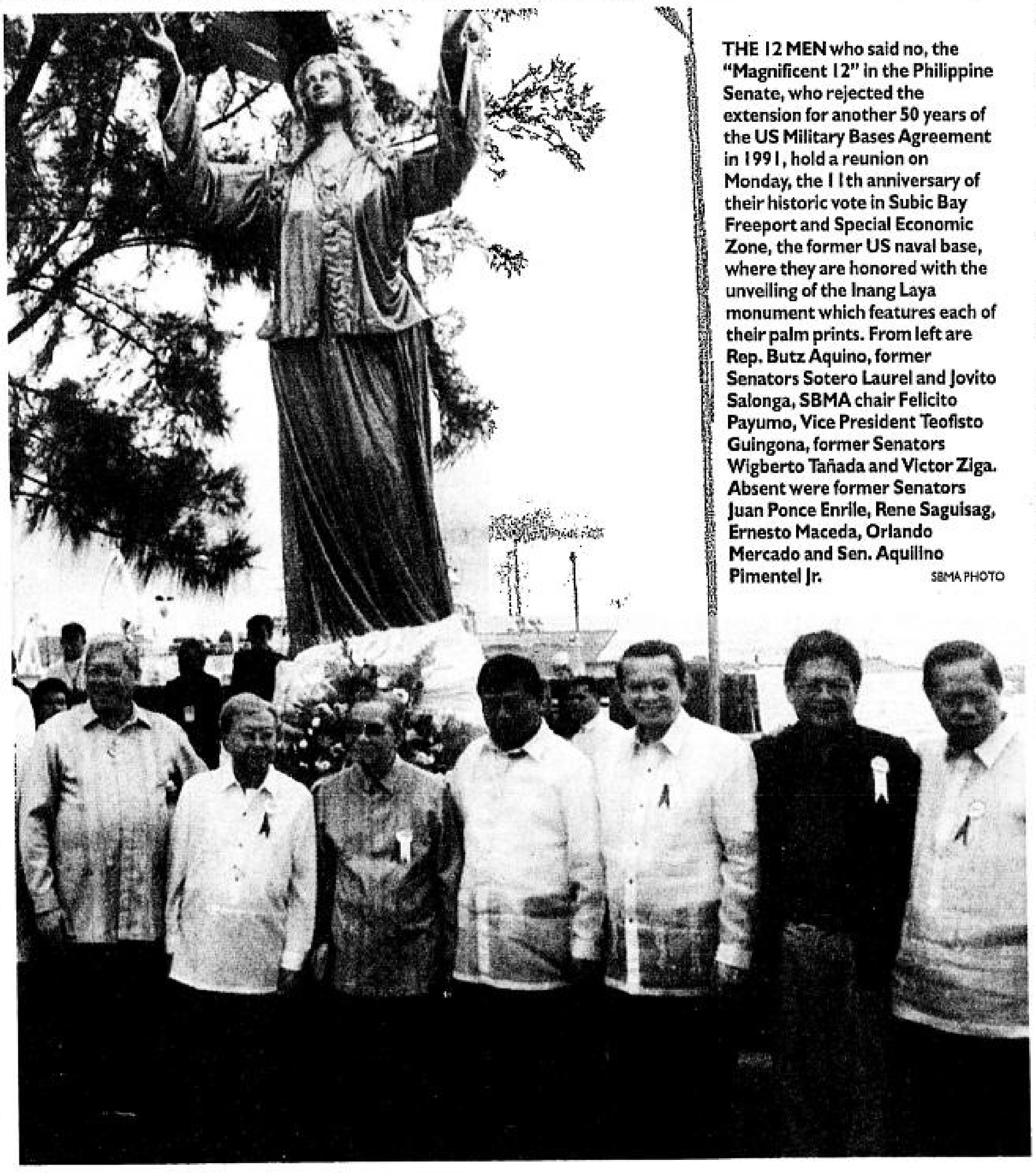
"If I react to that, they might say I'm envious," a laughing

NANI /A4

email: feedback@inquirer.com.ph
Tuesday, September 17, 2002 ★★ 40 pages / 3 sections / vol. 17 / no. 281 P15
website: www.inq7.net

**HISTORIC** no vote is observed by the militant Bayan group with a protest rally in front of the US Embassy. ERIK ARAZAS

# Naia 3 contract worst ever–Serge



**THE 12 MEN** who said no, the "Magnificent 12" in the Philippine Senate, who rejected the extension for another 50 years of the US Military Bases Agreement in 1991, hold a reunion on Monday, the 11th anniversary of their historic vote in Subic Bay Freeport and Special Economic Zone, the former US naval base, where they are honored with the unveiling of the Inang Laya monument which features each of their palm prints. From left are Rep. Butz Aquino, former Senators Sotero Laurel and Jovito Salonga, SBMA chair Felicito Payumo, Vice President Teofisto Guingona, former Senators Wigberto Tañada and Victor Ziga. Absent were former Senators Juan Ponce Enrile, Rene Saguisag, Ernesto Maceda, Orlando Mercado and Sen. Aquilino Pimentel Jr. SBMA PHOTO

## Magnificent 12 affirm decision to scrap bases

By the PDI Central Luzon Desk and Juliet L. Javellana

SUBIC BAY FREEPORT ZONE—Members of the "Magnificent 12" feel vindicated that they rejected in 1991 a treaty that would have extended for 50 years the stay of US military bases in the country.

"Subic and what it is now negate the fear that pro-bases groups had about the closure of the bases and the pullout of US troops. They said then that investors would flee, communists would dominate, the economy would fall and the treaty rejection would deal a death blow to our nation. None of that happened," former Sen. Wigberto Tañada said here on the 11th anniversary of the historic Senate decision.

Tañada joined former Senate President Jovito Salonga, Vice President Teofisto Guingona Jr., Makati Rep. Agapito Aquino and former Senators Sotero Laurel and Victor Ziga in this former US naval base to commemorate their rejection of the treaty.

Among the "Magnificent 12" who did not attend the event were jailed former President Joseph Estrada, Sen. Aquilino Pimentel Jr., and former Senators Rene Saguisag, Ernesto Maceda, Juan Ponce Enrile and Orlando Mercado.

Salonga said one proof that the Senate decision was right was the conversion of Subic, which for almost a century served as the platform of US military might in the Asia-Pacific region, into a special economic zone.

More than 600 firms in Subic now employ 55,000 workers, almost double the number of people employed in Subic

MAGNIFICENT/A16

## *Senate orders arrest of 'bagman'*

By Rocky Nazareno

"THE WORST contract."

**Thus did a member of the Senate blue ribbon committee described the Naia Terminal 3 contract yesterday.**

Observers said there seemed to be a growing consensus among committee members to nullify the build-operate-transfer contract won by Philippine International Air Terminals Co.

"This is the worst contract I've ever seen. It's like (Piatco) was given a blank check. It was open-ended from the beginning," Sen. Sergio Osmeña III said.

In yesterday's hearing, committee chair Sen. Joker Arroyo also ordered the arrest of alleged bagman Emmanuel Cuevas for repeatedly ignoring summons for him to appear before the panel.

Secretary Gloria Tan-Climaco, presidential adviser on strategic projects, had earlier identified Cuevas as the "under-the-table" man of Piatco treasurer Jefferson Cheng. Cheng is the son of Piatco president Cheng Yong, whose group owns 60 percent of the controversial Naia 3 concessionaire. Cuevas reportedly collected between P1.5 million and P4 million from the airport's prospective tenants.

Osmeña said he found the contract "grossly disadvantageous to the government" and he was no longer in favor of seeking a renegotiation of the contract.

"A renegotiation will only result (in) more graft. What should be done is to nullify the concession agreement and the Arca (amended and restated concession agreement) and revert to the original bid offering and terms of reference," he said.

NAIA 3/A4

## Iraq war jitters plunge peso to ₱52.44

THE PESO opened yesterday at a 13th-month low of 52.48 against the dollar and closed at 52.44, down by 21 centavos from Friday's close of 52.23, as other currencies in the region depreciated amid expectations of a US attack on Iraq.

"It's because of the concerns about Iraq, which are affecting all regional currencies, including the yen," Finance Secretary Jose Isidro Camacho told reporters.

"You cannot really buck a global trend. What we need to make sure is that it doesn't create an unnecessary or speculative pressure on the peso," he said.

Rafael Buenaventura, Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas governor, said the government did not intervene because it felt that there was enough liquidity in the system.

"We're letting the supply-demand forces work because we don't see excessive speculation, just people covering in anticipation of their needs like higher oil prices," Buenaventura said. A total of $133.5 million was traded at the Philippine Dealing System yesterday.

"Oil importation will definitely grow bigger in the next few months. If oil prices go up, a big part of remittances up to the Christmas season will definitely go to the servicing of our oil require-

IRAQ/A16

## Guingona: No state of war, no use of air space

By Tonette Orejas
*PDI Central Luzon Desk*
and Juliet Javellana, *in Manila*

SUBIC BAY FREEPORT ZONE— Congress, not the President, must decide.

The "Magnificent 12" senators who voted against the US bases in 1991 yesterday said Congress must first declare a state of war before the country could allow the US military to use its air space in case of another war with Iraq.

"The UN resolution will not be enough. There must be a declaration of a state of war by Congress," Vice President Teofisto Guingona told reporters.

On Saturday, Malacañang backtracked on its earlier, unsolicited proposal for the United States to use Philippine air space, saying it would now need a resolution of support from the UN Security Council before joining the campaign against Iraq.

Ex-Senate President Jovito Salonga took an even harsher line. He said President Macapagal-Arroyo's original offer to allow the United States to use the country's air space violated the Constitution.

"In my opinion, the President was violating the Constitution which, in its declaration of principles and state policies, explicitly says that the Philippines renounces war as an instrument of national policy and adopts the generally accepted principles of international laws as part of the law of the land," he said.

Guingona and Salonga made their remarks at a ceremony in this former American naval base marking the 11th anniversary of the historic Senate vote, when 12 senators voted to reject a new US bases treaty.

GUINGONA/A16

## Sabah cops face statutory rape raps

By Dona Z. Pazzibugan and Michael Lim Ubac

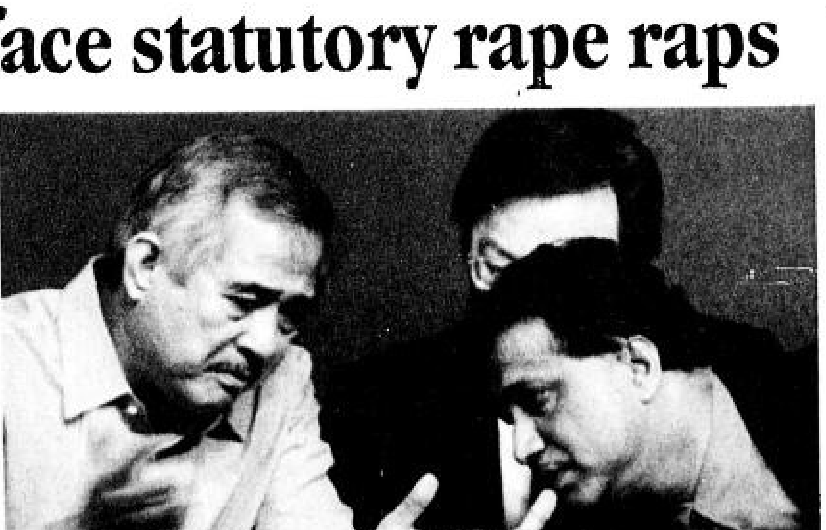
THE CASE of the Filipino 13-year-old allegedly raped by Malaysian policemen while in detention in Sabah involves statutory rape, according to the Malaysian lawyers representing her.

Statutory rape applies up to the age of 16 years under Malaysia's legal system, Justice Secretary Hernando Perez said, quoting Malaysian lawyers Gerald John and Francis Ng Aik Guan.

In the Philippines, the ceiling age for the crime of sexual intercourse with a female, whether willing or unwilling, is 12 years. The punishment is a life sentence, but under aggravating circumstances, such as when the victim is raped while in the custody of police or military authorities, the death penalty is applied.

The two Malaysian lawyers yesterday

SABAH /A4



**A QUESTION** of law appears to be the subject of discussion among Chief State Prosecutor Jovencito Zuño and Malaysian lawyers Gerald John and Francis Ng Aik-Guan. EDWIN BACASMAS

## Unemployment eases despite Sabah exodus

By Doris C. Dumlao and Blanche S. Rivera

BELIEVE it or not, the unemployment rate in the country has declined despite the expulsion from Malaysia of thousands of illegal Filipino migrants.

The unemployment rate eased to 11.2 percent in July from the two-year high of 13.9 percent in April due to new job opportunities created by the services and agriculture sectors, the National Statistics Office announced yesterday.

The unemployment rate as of July, however, was still slightly higher than the 10.1 percent recorded in the same period last year.

The rate of underemployed persons,

UNEMPLOYMENT /A4

**WEATHER FORECAST**

FORECAST: Southern Luzon, Visayas and Mindanao will experience cloudy skies with scattered rainshowers and thunderstorms becoming widespread rains over Bicol region. The rest of Luzon will be partly cloudy to cloudy with isolated rainshowers.

SOURCE: PAGASA

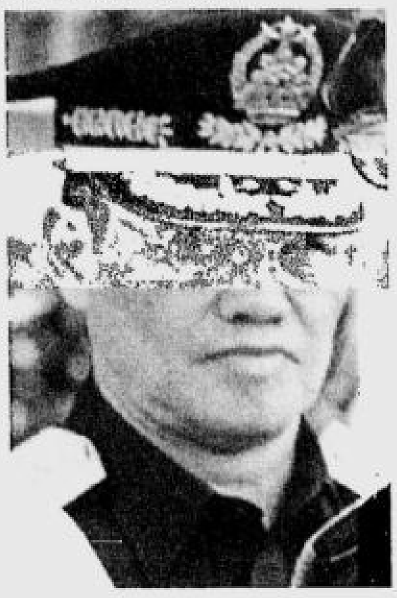
COMPILED BY: RAY LEYESA, PDI RESEARCH/09/17/02

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| **Metro Manila** | Cloudy with Rains | **Iloilo/Bacolod** | Cloudy with Rains |
| **Baguio** | Partly Cloudy | **Roxas** | Cloudy with Rains |
| **Tuguegarao** | Partly Cloudy | **Cebu** | Cloudy with Rains |
| **Laoag** | Partly Cloudy | **Tacloban** | Cloudy with Rains |
| **Clark Zone** | Partly Cloudy | **Gen. Santos** | Cloudy with Rains |
| **Tagaytay** | Cloudy with Rains | **Zamboanga** | Cloudy with Rains |
| **Legazpi** | Cloudy with Rains | **Cagayan de Oro** | Cloudy with Rains |
| **Calapan** | Cloudy with Rains | **Davao** | Cloudy with Rains |

# No scalawag generals in AFP–Defensor

By Martin P. Marfil

**THE COUNTRY'S highest ranking military official said yesterday there were no generals on the list of scalawags in the ranks that has been drawn up by the Armed Forces of the Philippines.**


DEFENSOR

New AFP Chief of Staff Gen. Benjamin Defensor told reporters yesterday he saw the military's list and, "I don't think there will be a general involved in the list that I saw (but) their (scalawags') ranks range . . . "

Top officials of both the AFP and the Philippine National Police had been instructed to draw up a list of their members involved in criminal activities.

Defensor said the military will investigate those on the list preparatory to the filing of charges against them.

The AFP and PNP leadership signed on Saturday an agreement to cooperate with each other in the campaign against scalawags in uniform.

The campaign comes on the heels of a surge in reported kidnapping for ransom cases that included the recent abduction of a congressman's children.

In most cases of kidnapping, holdups and bank robberies, military men and policemen had been suspected of involvement because of the precision with which the criminal operations were carried out.

An earlier report said at least 326 policemen and 52 military officers had derogatory records, although some of them faced only administrative charges.

The report also said the AFP was still verifying reports 799 other soldiers were involved in illegal activities.

Defensor assumed command of the military last week amid a restiveness born of the need to modernize the force in the light of changing domestic and international conditions.

Among his first acts was to purchase fighter jets from Taiwan.

Defensor said yesterday the Philippine Air Force wants the surplus F-5E jets from Taiwan to form the core of its "interim fighter fleet," while it looked for money to buy more modern jets.

The Philippines is also looking for surplus F-5E jets from other countries, Defensor told reporters, according to Agence France Presse.

"The F-5s we are getting for our air force are actually an interim measure," he said. Defensor was reacting to a report on Sunday by a Taiwan newspaper that negotiations between Manila and Taipei over the sale of the fighter jets was gathering pace.

In return for the sale, Taiwan is pressing Manila to allow its jets to land at the former US air base at Clark Field, Pampanga, and to let its pilots train in Philippine air space because Taiwan lacks the space to do so.

Taiwan's defense ministry was tight-lipped on the negotiations but the sale would most likely anger Beijing, which considers Taiwan a renegade province.

Philippine officials earlier said it would stick to its "one-China policy" that regards Taiwan as a part of China.

Taiwan has scrapped the outdated F-5E fighters, which were made under US license in the 1970s, after its air force acquired US-made F-16s, French-made Mirage 2000-5s and homemade Indigenous Defense Fighters.

But despite their age, the Philippine military has said the single-seater F-5Es would still be a boost to its ill-equipped air force in the face of Muslim and communist insurgency problems plaguing the countryside.

The Philippine Congress passed a military modernization program in the mid-1990s that called for the acquisition of modern multi-role fighter aircraft and patrol boats.

The fighter acquisition program failed to take off the ground due to lack of funding. *With an AFP report*

# Captor of 'Witnesses' killed by own men?

**By Julie S. Alipala**
*PDI Mindanao Bureau*

JOLO, Sulu—Abdulmuin Sahiron, alias Kumander Arafat, who was allegedly behind the abduction of six Jehovah's Witnesses, was killed by his own comrades, not by government troopers.

Patikul Mayor Hasir Hayudini told the INQUIRER that this was because the comrades blamed "Muin" for the kidnapping's adverse effects on the harvest season.

The military reported earlier that Muin had been killed in an encounter between Abu Sayyaf bandits and government soldiers on Mount Bagsak in Patikul.

He was a nephew of Radullan Sahiron, leader of an Abu Sayyaf faction based in Patikul.

Muin was "terminated," Hayudini said, "because what he did resulted in losses amounting to millions for people dependent on the lanzones, mangosteen and durian harvests."

The mayor said Radullan had nothing to do with the abduction on Aug. 20. The following day, the severed heads of the two male hostages were found in a Jolo public market.

"During that abduction and beheading, Radullan was busy tending to his farm and planting cassava, while (farmers who were members of other) armed groups in the area were harvesting their fruits," Hayudini said.

Immediately after the abduction, the military launched Oplan Endgame, which disrupted the harvest of fruits to be shipped to Iloilo, Cebu and Metro Manila.

Hayudini estimated the farmers' losses at P40 million. *With Martin Marfil*

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REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
COMMISSION ON APPOINTMENTS
PASAY CITY

**ANNOUNCEMENT**

President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo has submitted to the Commission on Appointments (C.A.) for confirmation the *ad interim* appointments of the following:

**Constitutional Commission**

**Benjamin S. Abalos, Sr.**—Chairman, Commission on Elections

**Armed Forces of the Philippines**

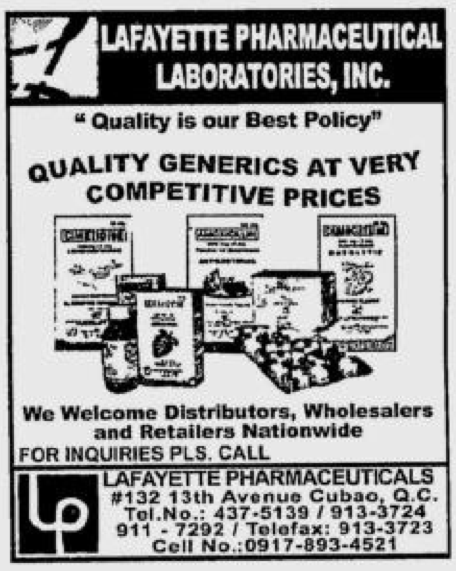
**Reynaldo R. Alcasid**—to the grade of Major General; **Renato P. Miranda, Trifonio P. Salazar, Hermogenes C. Esperon, Jr.** and **Ralph L. Flores**—to the grade of Brigadier General; **Jorge G. Necesito**—to the grade of Commodore; **Alberto I. Gabriel**—to the grade of Colonel, MC.

The public may submit any information, written report or sworn complaints or oppositions in forty (40) copies on the above appointments to the CA Secretariat, 6th Floor, PNB Financial Center, Roxas Boulevard, Pasay City, Metro Manila.

For the schedule of the public hearings, the CA Secretariat can be reached through Telephone Numbers 551-7532, 831-0893, 831-1824, 834-2706, 831-1566 and 834-2713.

16 September 2002.

(Sgd.) ARTURO L. TIU
*Secretary*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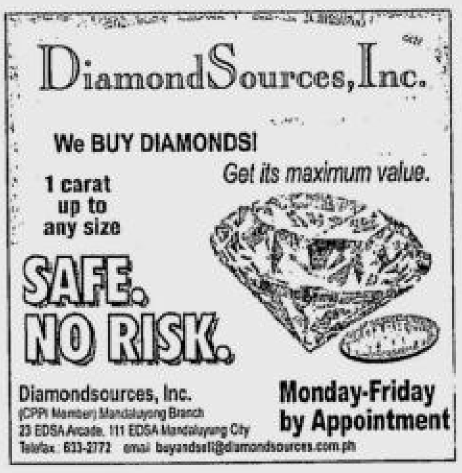
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The public is hereby advised to be careful in purchasing marine plywood claiming to be the original **SANTA CLARA MARINE Plywood.** Check the authenticity of the source and the quality of the product. If in doubt of the genuineness of the product, you may call our Cebu or Davao Office and our personnel will act immediately to verify the genuineness of the product.

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# Upbeat De Jesus takes over at DepEd

**By Donna S. Cueto**

NEW Education secretary Edilberto de Jesus formally took over the office yesterday, bringing with him his appointment papers and sense of humor.

De Jesus' mood was upbeat. He said he hoped the heavy morning rains were not a sign of things to come.

Then he noticed some guests during the flag-raising ceremony who were from the Philippine National Red Cross. "Maybe they want my blood this early," he joked. "(Or) is it because DepEd is seen as a disaster area?"

De Jesus said there was a lot that he needed to do and that he would, in fact, spend his first few weeks in office "trying to understand" what was going on in the department.

"There will probably be some changes," he hinted, "but I hope that these changes will not be too painful."

The new chief said he wanted to get DepEd working once more "towards a common goal, towards a common objective."

De Jesus had come straight from a meeting with Executive Secretary Alberto Romulo in Malacañang, where he received his appointment papers. "It is official," he said. "I am coming in as secretary and I am thankful for the welcome you have extended to me."

President of the Far Eastern University before his appointment to head the Department of Education, De Jesus said he was happy with his new "family."

# Guard won't die for Chavit but helps him pin Estrada

**By Volt Contreras**

THE BODYGUARD was candid enough to say he would not "take a bullet" for his boss, Luis "Chavit" Singson, but at least he tried to help the former Ilocos Sur governor pin down deposed President Joseph Estrada on "juetengate."

State prosecutors in the Estrada plunder trial yesterday presented SPO2 Vicente Amistad, who admitted he had followed Singson's order to pick up Estrada's alleged jueteng payola from co-accused son Jinggoy Estrada and suspected gambling lord Rodolfo "Bong" Pineda.

Singson's security aide for the last 13 years, Amistad, 47, said he picked up jueteng money from Pineda's home in Greenhills East, San Juan, twice in 1999 and once in 2000, in the amounts of P7.750 million, P5 million and P3.25 million.

During direct examination, the witness said the "bundles" of cash were handed to him in plastic bags by Pineda's brother, Romy.

Sometime in November 1999, Amistad said, he collected P899,000 from then Mayor Jinggoy Estrada at the San Juan municipal hall. A bodyguard of the mayor's allegedly gave him the money wrapped in newspaper, just outside the building.

Cross-examined by Estrada lead counsel de officio Prospero Crescini, Amistad admitted it was Singson, not the former president, who had given him the order to collect the money from Pineda and Jinggoy. He was also made to affirm that he delivered the money to Singson at the LCS building in San Andres Bukid, Manila, not to Malacañang.

The tension in the courtroom gave way to a comic break when Amistad was asked if he would "take a bullet" for Singson. The witnessed answered, "No, sir," sending almost everyone, including the justices and prosecutors, into muffled chuckles.

"I have no more use for this witness," a grinning Crescini barked upon hearing the reply. Even in redirect examination, the Vigan-based police officer repeated that he was not willing to die for the man he has been guarding since 1989.

Also yesterday, the justices of the special Sandiganbayan division hearing the Estrada cases announced their intention to hold "whole day" hearings in October and November.

The prosecutors were amenable to the proposal, but Estrada's four court-appointed lawyers asked for time to reply.

# Don't be late—not this week

PUNCTUALITY and civility, according to President Macapagal-Arroyo, are "two of the indispensable virtues that our citizenry must possess if we are to aspire for a peaceful, prosperous and orderly society."

Hence, in order to make the people aware of these virtues, the President issued Proclamation No. 251 declaring Sept. 15-21 National Consciousness Week for Punctuality and Civility.

Ms Macapagal defined punctuality simply as "respect for the value of time," and civility as "respect for the rights of others."

"There is a need for a new breed of Filipinos who would make the most of their time and respect the rights of their fellowmen, to ensure a united citizenry," the President said. *Carlito Pablo*

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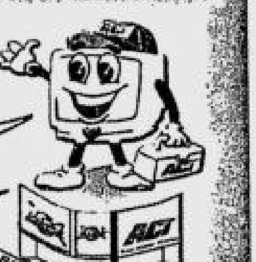

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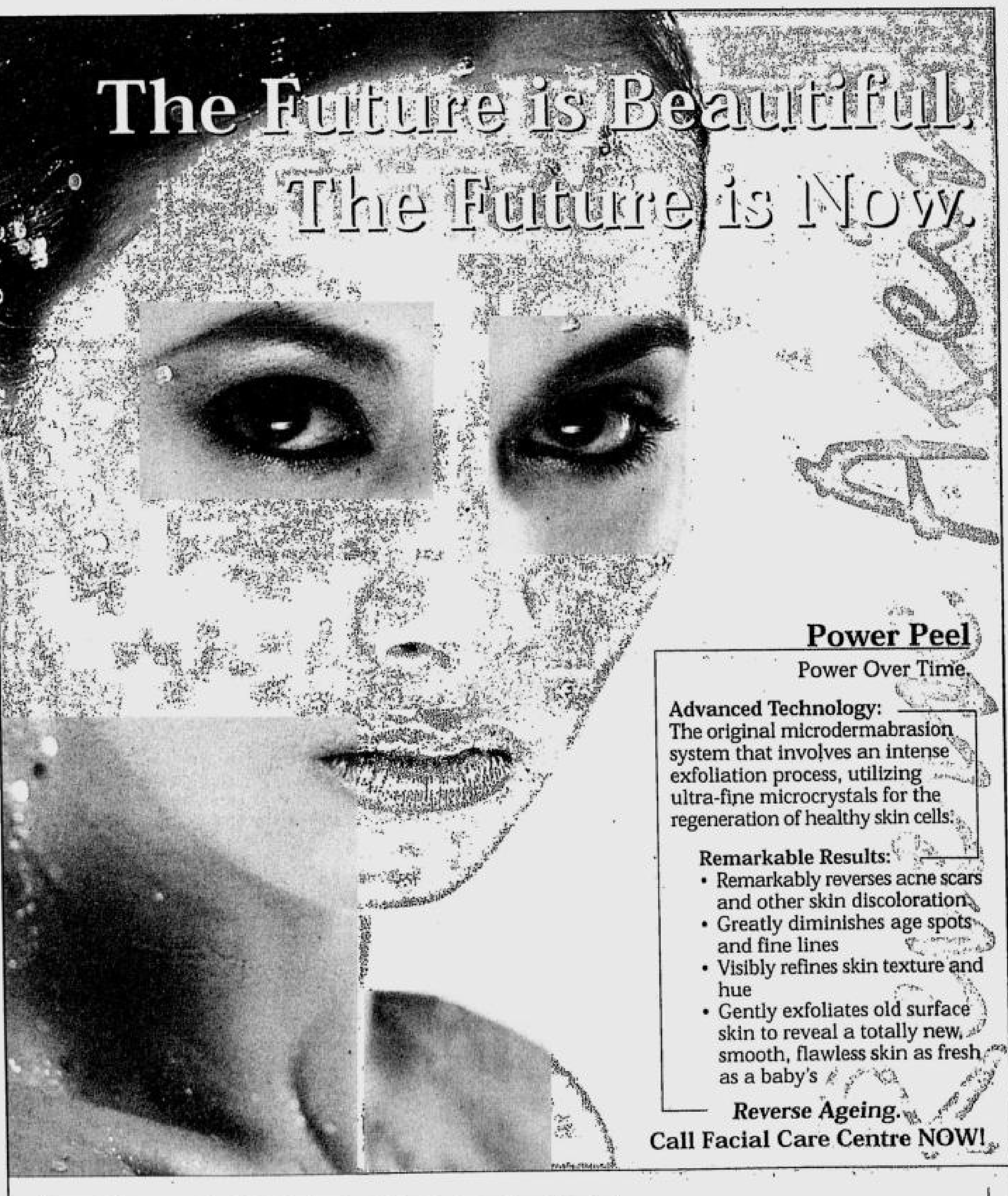
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# Sabah cops face statutory rape charges

From page A1

briefed President Macapagal-Arroyo, Perez, Social Welfare Secretary Corazon Soliman and members of the Public Attorneys' Office on their recommended course of action regarding the case of the girl identified by the pseudonym "Angelica."

"We have established the procedure on how the identification (of the suspects) will be done," Perez told reporters without giving details. Asked if this would entail sending Angelica back to Sabah, he said: "It may."

But Soliman said the girl, one of about 70,000 Filipinos expelled from Sabah, was not ready to face her supposed rapists.

"If you ask her (whether she wants to go back) she will say yes, but that doesn't mean she's ready. For one who has undergone such an experience, she's still in trauma," Soliman said, adding:

"That's why our recommendation, which the President has echoed, is that everything that has to be done should be done here. Only when her physical presence (in Sabah) is required would we consider (sending her back)."

Angelica claimed to have been raped by the chief of Malaysian guards and two of his subordinates on numerous occasions during her seven-month detention in Kota Kinabalu.

"She's slowly recovering her confidence and becoming comfortable in her surroundings," Soliman said.

Angelica lives with two other Filipinos who stayed in the same detention camp and is under the care of a psychologist and a regional director of the Department of Social Work and Development.

"The order from the President is to do everything that can be done for Angelica," Perez said.

He said the Philippine government had agreed to allow three Malaysian policemen to come to the country to question the girl.

This, he said, would not only speed up the separate investigation being conducted by Malaysian police but also prove that the Philippines was willing to open its doors to Malaysian authorities as part of coordinated efforts to obtain justice for Angelica.

Perez said the Malaysian lawyers, who arrived last Friday, were working for free as a favor to Philippine Ambassador to Malaysia Jose Brillantes.

He said the lawyers—whom he described as "very prestigiou"—had interviewed Angelica and another potential witness in the presence of DSWD personnel.

Relevant information from the interviews will be forwarded to Malaysian authorities for follow-up action, Perez said.

He said that as under the Philippine legal system, any complaint lodged by Angelica would have to be evaluated by the Malaysian Attorney General's Office to determine if it had sufficient basis to warrant formal filing in court.

A team composed of members of the DSWD and of the Departments of Justice and of Foreign Affairs has been formed to look into Angelica's case and help her seek justice before the Malaysian courts.

A separate fact-finding team earlier sent by the Philippine government to Malaysia has found that four more Filipino female minors also claimed to have been raped by Malaysian guards.

Perez said it was the Philippines that broached the idea of allowing Malaysian police to question Angelica here.

He said the move would also address objections from various sectors here to the Malaysian government's request for the girl to return to Sabah to identify her supposed rapists.

Perez said Chief Supt. Florencio Fianza, chief of the PNP Interpol, had confirmed the planned trip of the Malaysian police.

In a statement, the DFA announced that it was giving the Malaysian police clearance to interview Angelica.

"(The interviews) may include the recording of her statement and possible formality of lodging a police report," it said.

### Last batch

The last Filipinos in Sabah detention camps—536 in all—will be back in the Philippines anytime this week.

They will be collected by Nur Jaafar, the President's adviser on Muslim affairs, and ferried to Mindanao on board the Navy's RP Bacolod and the Coast Guard's RP San Juan.

"Other than them, there are no more Filipinos in detention (in Sabah)," Soliman said.

She said the remaining Filipinos in Sabah should take advantage of the moratorium on arrests and expulsions ordered by Malaysian Prime Minister Mahathir Mohamad to legalize their stay there.

"They need to start making their papers legal to avoid arrest and the consequent punishment of six months in detention and four strokes of the cane," she said.

Jaafar and a team of doctors and social workers are to leave today for Sandakan.

Soliman said the doctors and social workers would first determine whether the Filipinos were fit to travel.

"We will also be taking in voluntary deportees—Filipinos who do not wish to be detained if and when the moratorium is lifted. That's why we are sending two boats to Sandakan," she said.

Soliman said the DFA was working out a number of options for a "more systematic, rational and humane repatriation" of the remaining Filipinos in Sabah.

For the meantime, the DFA, DSWD and labor department would be conducting information campaigns among Filipinos in Sabah to encourage them to secure the necessary immigration and working papers. *With reports from Carlito Pablo, Norman Bordadora and Reuters*

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# Nani feels left out . . .

From page A1

Justice Secretary Hernando "Nani" Perez yesterday said on being asked to comment on the Philippine Tatler cover featuring President Macapagal-Arroyo and four other Cabinet members in a "Men in Black" pose.

"Frankly, I don't see anything wrong with the picture," Perez said. "It's a nice picture. It provoked discussion, but that doesn't mean it's wrong."

"It's just too bad we weren't included," he added, laughing some more.

Press Secretary Ignacio Bunye likewise saw nothing wrong in what the Asian Wall Street Journal said was a photograph that made Defense Secretary Angelo Reyes, Finance Secretary Jose Isidro Camacho, Trade Secretary Manuel Roxas II and Executive Secretary Alberto Romulo "look like thugs."

"Tatler is a lifestyle magazine," Bunye said. "It's not in the same category as the news magazines like Time and Newsweek. The President, of course, can on occasion show her lighter side."

He also said it was "not inappropriate" for such a magazine "to show the President letting her hair down."

Bunye pointed out that by using the "Men in Black theme" of dark suits, dark glasses and confrontational pose, the magazine was "trying to portray the good guys—the President and her Cabinet—in a fun sort of way."

He advised "the detractors of the President" to "lighten up."

"And if I may add," he said in a serious tone, "I don't think the photograph has detracted from the President's ability to govern."

As far as Social Welfare Secretary Corazon Soliman was concerned, the photograph was something for "levity, (given) all the things that we face."

"We don't have to take ourselves too seriously," Soliman said in an earlier interview in Malacañang.

She cited the trademark streak of blue or green in her hair, saying: "My streak keeps me sane. That's part of how we manage our stress."

Soliman guffawed when told that opposition Sen. Teresa Aquino-Oreta had suggested that she and Gloria Tan-Climaco, one of the President's advisers, could pose next time with Ms Macapagal as the Powerpuff Girls.

She said jokingly that she could pose as the green-costumed Buttercup.

### PR stunt

But the opposition senators were still not amused.

"The problem with Ms Macapagal is that she thinks she can solve the peace and order problem through PR stunts," said Sen. Panfilo Lacson, a former chief of the Philippine National Police. "By this time, she should have realized that crime fighting is a serious business that requires good performance more than PR gimmicks."

Lacson said the President was quick at grabbing credit for the arrest or killing of suspected criminals and even more quick at passing the blame on the PNP whenever kidnappings and bank robberies were pulled off.

"This is hardly the trait of a good leader," he said, adding that the kidnapping problem besetting the administration only showed that public relations gimmicks and photo opportunities could not deter crime.

Sen. Edgardo Angara said the President should start governing like a true leader because business confidence in her administration had supposedly hit rock-bottom. *With a report from Cynthia D. Balana*

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# Unemployment eases . . .

From page A1

those who desired additional hours of work, dropped to 17.1 percent this year from 17.7 percent last year.

Economists said the country's high unemployment rate still indicated the difficult business environment.

"Although the economy is growing at a relatively high pace (4.5 percent in the second quarter), it is still not generating enough jobs. Listed companies are still cutting down expenditures to improve their bottom line and this is leading to a lot of retrenchment and freeze-hiring," AB Capital Securities economist Jose Vistan said.

He said "those who are currently employed are increasing their productivity and reducing opportunities for those newly joining the labor market like the fresh graduates."

Labor Secretary Patricia Sto. Tomas said the economy could accommodate the burgeoning workforce because many Filipinos continued to find jobs in other countries. Records from the Philippine Overseas Employment Administration showed that some 2,600 Filipinos leave the country every day to work abroad. This year, a total of 638,000 Filipinos have already left as of Sept. 1.

The government is targeting a deployment of one million overseas Filipino workers yearly.

Sto. Tomas earlier said she expected the unemployment rate to go down and remain relatively stable despite the massive deportation of undocumented Filipino workers abroad. She said the government expected around 25 percent of those deported, particularly from Malaysia, to go back to their jobs as documented workers this time.

### Quarterly figures

The unemployment rate, which the NSO measures on a quarterly basis is seasonally highest in April due to the influx of fresh college graduates in the labor force.

The latest NSO report showed a 2.8-percent increase in employment to 30.1 million from 29.3 million in July last year, but the employment ratio to the labor force slightly fell from 89.9 percent to 88.8 percent.

The labor force expanded by 1.4 million or 4.1 percent in July compared to the same period last year, while the participation rate inched up to 67.1 percent from 66.3 percent.

Employment in agriculture rose by 1.5 percent to 11.1 million from 11 million a year ago, but the sector's share to total employment dipped by 0.5 percentage point from a year ago to 37 percent.

The services sector employed 666,000 more people, up by 4.9 percent. Its share to total employment increased to 47.4 percent from 46.4 percent.

Wholesale and retail trade, repair of motor vehicles, motorcycles and personal and household goods subsector accounted for the largest share of the employment in services, followed by transport, storage and communications.

There was also an increase in the number of people employed by private households, hotels and restaurants, community, social and personal services, health and social work as well as schools. But employment in real estate, renting and businesses declined.

Despite the dramatic rebound in the industry sector led by manufacturing in the second quarter, employment in the sector still declined by 7,000 or 0.1 percent. Its share to total employment dipped 0.5 percentage point from a year ago to 15.6 percent.

### Occupational groups

Among the occupational groups, laborers and unskilled workers registered the largest increase in employment level, with their share in total employment rising 0.9 percentage point from 29.2 percent to 30.1 percent in July. Officials of government and special interest organizations, corporate executives, managers, managing proprietors and supervisors recorded the next largest increase of 283,000 to 3.2 million.

Other groups that posted increases were service workers and shop and market sales workers (131,000), technicians and associate professionals (93,000), clerks (74,000) and professionals (54,000). The number of unpaid family workers increased by 124,000 from 3.8 million to 3.9 million.

The occupational groups which posted declines in employment were the farmers, forestry worker, fishermen, trades and related workers, and plant and machine operators/assemblers.

The number of underemployed persons, those who desired additional hours of work, decreased by 28, 000 from 5.19 million in July 2001 to 5.161 million in July this year. The corresponding underemployment rate dropped to 17.1 percent this year from 17.7 percent last year.

Malacañang said some 7,000 employees would be affected once it completed its review of 14 government agencies believed to be redundant.

But Budget Secretary Emilia Boncodin, who heads the review, said there would be no a mass layoff. She said not all 14 agencies would be abolished. Some agencies with overlapping functions would be merged and their employees absorbed. *With a report from Dona Pazzibugan*

# Naia 3 . . .

From page A1

uardo delos Angeles maintained that the Naia 3 concessionaire complied with the bidding parameters and that "no major changes were made on the core of the build-operate-transfer project."

"And how about the airport? It's already there, it's virtually complete," said Delos Angeles, a former president of the Philippine Stock Exchange and former dean of the Ateneo de Manila Law School.

Delos Angeles objected to comparisons made between the winning bid of Piatco and that of Asia's Emerging Dragons Corp., the original Naia 3 proponent.

Former AEDC president Antonio Henson was questioned by the committee about how the company, owned by the country's six taipans, offered to undertake the project only to be beaten by Piatco's "challenge bid."

Climaco offered an "apple-to-apple" comparison of the bids, and said this showed that AEDC would have given the government a better deal.

"But it's more like a ripe apple-to-seed. (comparison)," Delos Angeles said. "The AEDC figures were mere estimates and who knows? AEDC may have spent more than us."

"It would be more onerous if government would suddenly cancel its contract with Piatco," he said.

"There is no real ground to declare it null and void," he added.

Osmeña said the original concession, the 1998 Arca and the additional supplements were tainted and must be considered "works in progress in favor of the proponent (Piatco)."

Among other defects, Osmeña noted:

- Deviations from the "original bid offer and terms of references." But under the concession agreement signed by the government and Piatco, there would be no more monopoly, allowing the proponent to maintain a return on rate base of more than 12 percent, the legal maximum.
- Overshooting the $369-million project cost which now stands at $525 million, for a total cost overrun of $156 million.
- "A terminal bigger (than the original design) to accommodate a shopping center, not intended exclusively for passengers, but even for outsiders."
- A new government guarantee, under which the government is bound to assume Piatco's loan obligations, now at $379 million, should it default before the 25-year BOT contract expires.

"It is true that Piatco will turn over Naia 3 to the government for P1 after 25 years but what will happen if it defaults or suddenly leaves before that time comes?" Osmeña asked. *With a report from INQ7.net*

# NPA safe from US attack, official says

**By Chandler E. Ramas III**
*Contributor*

SAN FRANCISCO—Despite growing global concerns about Washington's expanding war on terrorism signaled by threats to invade Iraq, the United States is not considering a US-led attack on the New People's Army (NPA), which the US State Department considers a foreign terrorist organization.

The assurance was made by a ranking State Department official in Washington DC who said that fears raised by some sectors, particularly the Communist Party of the Philippines (CPP), were unfounded as they did not reflect US foreign policy.

The CPP-NPA and the National Democratic Front (NDF) are reportedly jittery over the latest American action in the Middle East, which looks headed to a US assault on Baghdad to flush out Saddam Hussein.

The official said the CPP has always had "divergent positions from reality."

US critics argued that such a unilateral action would pave the way for the US to deploy its forces in countries it deems to be harboring terrorists or have active terrorist cells.

Although the Philippines is the US' closest military ally in Asia, the State Department classified the CPP-NPA-NDF as a "foreign terrorist organization" deserving of closer US military attention.

The State Department official, however, brushed off speculations about direct US military involvement in Manila's fight against the NPA, stressing that Washington continues to see the Philippines as a sovereign state whose problems "need to be resolved by Filipinos."

"What happens in the Philippines is for Filipinos to decide (and while) the US is no friend of communism, either in the Philippines or any other country, there is no consideration of the US even attempting to go back to the Philippines to do what it did in the past," said the official who requested anonymity.

He acknowledged there was "a lot of sensitivity" in the Philippines about how the US will play out its role in the Southeast Asian nation and implied that direct US military intervention would trigger insurmountable opposition there.

The official said US foreign policy dictates that the war on terrorism adopts a "multifaceted" approach that includes freezing terrorist assets and providing financial assistance to allied governments.

With respect to the CPP-NPA, the official said they were "facilitating efforts to dry up assets" of the communist group, although he was not aware what CPP assets, if any, have been frozen by the US or its allies.

"While the NPA is responsible for a number of murders not only of Filipinos but of American citizens as well...the US solution to problems of terrorism is not to deploy US forces consequentially from one country to another," the official said. He said to say otherwise "is not an accurate description of US policy.

# RP goes after illegal aliens who owe P60M

IMMIGRATION Commissioner Andrea Domingo has ordered a hunt for undocumented aliens who have skipped out of their obligation to pay legalization fees amounting to some P60 million when they availed of the country's amnesty program since 1995.

The Bureau of Immigration has canceled the permanent resident visas of 246 foreigners who registered under the Alien Social Integration Act (Asia) that was in effect from 1995 to 1997.

Another 200 foreigners are expected to lose their visas for non-payment of their fees. The deadline for full payment was in March last year.

Most of the aliens are believed to be Chinese and Indian nationals doing business in the country.

"We have no choice but to cancel their visas," Domingo said. *Blanche S. Rivera*

# Free contraceptives only for the poorest

THE COMMISSION on Population, facing cutbacks in donations, will be giving free contraceptives only to poor women who cannot afford to pay for it.

In a statement, COP Executive Director Tomas Osias also called on the private sector to increase donations to help address the country's high growth rate.

The shift in COP's population control program came after the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) said it would stop donating contraceptives to the country.

Osias said rich couples will be encouraged to buy their own contraceptives, while other couples will be given subsidies by both the government and the private sector. The poorest couples will be given contraceptives for free. *Armand Nocum*

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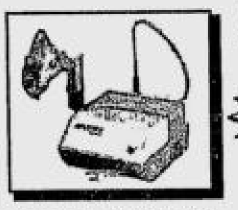

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# Traffic group effects bloodless arrest

**By TJ Burgonio**

AFTER being accused of executing suspected car thieves, the Traffic Management Group (TMG) yesterday managed to arrest eight alleged members of a car theft syndicate, including two ex-military men, without a single shot being fired.

Senior Supt. Danilo Mangila, the TMG director, presented the alleged members of the notorious Bonnet Gang to President Macapagal-Arroyo at Camp Crame.

The suspects were identified as Roberto Bacus and Raul Ravina, former members of the Army's 1st Infantry in Misamis Occidental; senior fire officer Dionisio Pabanto, Neil Santos, Jade Abalon, Silvino Oca, Grace Hamili and Sheryl Sta. Rica.

Ms Macapagal, who only two days ago had called a command conference because she wanted a special effort to neutralize "rascals in uniform," noted that two of those arrested were men in uniform.

She commended Mangila and his men who claim to have cracked six of 15 car theft syndicates.

"Col. Mangila, tell your troops: 'Congratulations and continue your good work!' " she said.

Only three days before yesterday's arrests, TMG agents killed five alleged members of the Parungao car theft syndicate in a reported shootout on Mindanao Ave. in Quezon City.

Last week, TMG operatives also killed five alleged members of the Veloso car theft and kidnapping syndicate, also in a reported shootout in Hagonoy, Bulacan.

The TMG has come under fire in the wake of these operations because of suspicions of a rub-out.

Mangila, who is alleged to have carried out summary executions while with the Western Police District, denied the car theft suspects had been executed while justifying the killings.

"If you engage us in a shoot-out, you're dead. But if you don't, then you remain alive. That's the SOP. Look what happened to these suspects. They're still alive because they didn't fight us," he said, referring to the alleged members of the Bonnet Gang.

"Those people I've killed, they never cried rub-out. They were criminals," he said.

TMG DETAINEE
TMG DETAINEE
TMG DETAINEE
TMG DETAINEE
TMG DETAINEE

**MISTRESS OF THE PERP WALK.** **President Macapagal-Arroyo presents alleged members of the Bonnet Gang car thief syndicate at Camp Crame. They were arrested without a single shot being fired.** EDWIN BACASMAS

# Gov't, firms rapped for emergency exemptions

BAYAN Muna Rep. Crispin Beltran yesterday castigated the National Wages and Productivity Commission (NWPC) for exempting some 500 companies from paying the mandatory emergency cost of living allowance (Ecola).

"(The NWPC) has once more proven that its mandate is to make it easier for employers and businesses to avoid granting minimum wage hikes," Beltran said.

He said that because of the exemptions, majority of workers in all regions did not get the Ecola.

"In fact, it would even be safe to say that less than 10 percent of all workers in the Philippines did not receive any wage adjustment in 2001 because most companies don't abide by the law when it comes to wage payments," he said.

He said he would call for a House inquiry into the NWPC and its operations because its functions were becoming inimical to the interest of labor.

"There is massive corruption in the labor agencies and this should be investigated," he said.

According to NWPC figures, of the 959 firms which applied for exemptions, 510 or 78.78 percent obtained approval. The firms cited economic distress, financial losses and potential losses as their reasons for avoiding payment of the P30 Ecola mandated in NCR Wage Order No. 9.

"Companies are always citing profit losses or downtrends in their income margins, but workers are losing everything because of the steady decline of the value of their already negligible wages . . . most working-class families don't even get to eat three square meals a day," Beltran said.

A company given an exemption is given a maximum of one year grace period. *Gerald G. Lacuarta*

# Planning group wants text game shows banned

**By Rianne C. Tecson**
*PDI Visayas Bureau*

CEBU CITY—Being a "text partner" in a TV game show has become an easy way to make some money for many television viewers.

If government regional planners have their way, .however, such schemes would be banned for possibly violating anti-gambling laws.

The "text partner" scheme resembles the online lottery of the Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office as it involves distributing prizes by chance, said the members of the Regional Development Council-Development Administration Committee (RDC-DevAd), a regional planning body directly under the Office of the President.

RDC-DevAd officials want a ban imposed not just on the "text partner" portion of the game shows but also on all game shows employing similar schemes.

In a position paper dated Aug. 29, they also asked the Office of the President and the justice department to determine if these text-based game shows could be considered gambling and if these violated any laws.

Describing the mechanics of one such unnamed tv show, it said an individual can qualify as a text partner by purchasing through text an exclusive TV logo or icon. The entry, consisting of a six-letter combination, was sent via text message costing P10.

The RDC-DevAd said the text partner portion of the show could be likened to a lottery, which Supreme Court jurisprudence has defined as a "scheme for the distribution of prizes by chance among persons who have paid, or agreed to pay, a valuable consideration for the chance to obtain a prize."

"If the scheme is such that human reason, foresight, sagacity or design cannot enable one to know or determine the result until the same has been accomplished, then it is a lottery," the RDC-DevAd said, quoting from the SC ruling.

The RDC-DevAd also cited Presidential Decree No. 1602, which defines gambling as "the act of taking part directly or indirectly in any illegal or unauthorized forms of lotteries," it said.

The 1987 Constitution similarly states that only Congress can grant a franchise to operate a gambling activity similar to the existing lotto and online bingo, it added.

Since the game shows are operating without the necessary legislative franchise, they are unauthorized and illegal, the RDC-DevAd said.

"Thus, any person who directly or indirectly takes part in these games is considered to be involved in illegal gambling," it said.

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On its 20th year, SMC stands its ground, a picture of continuous growth with its uncompromising commitment to the formation of the youth. Its facilities have expanded to include three computer laboratories, three audio-visual rooms all full air-conditioned, a big library, four science laboratories, two home economics laboratories, an oratory, a multipurpose hall, and special rooms for specific purposes such as for the gifted students, faculty training, parent homeroom meetings, the alumni association, the school publications, discussion and consultation meetings, and many more.

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# Makati Medical Center wins Asian Hospital Management Award

International panel of judges honors Makati Medical Center with the Customer Service Award and five runner-up prizes at the Asian Hospital Management Awards held in Bangkok, Thailand, September 4-6, 2002.

**Dr. Fores delivers his acceptance remarks during the Asian Hospital Management Awards ceremonies. "Makati Medical is truly the hospital with a heart..."**

An international panel of experts announced the winners of the first annual Asian Hospital Management Awards in Bangkok, Thailand. Makati Medical Center (MMC) was one of eight hospitals in Asia to win a place in the prestigious program that attracted 92 entries from 33 hospitals in 11 countries. MMC was the only hospital to have been selected winner or runner up in six of the nine categories.

MMC President and Medical Director Raul G. Fores said, "We are totally committed to providing our patients with services to make them be better and feel better. The fact that our selection for the award was made by an international panel of experts makes the award all the more meaningful."

"Winning this award highlights our commitment and shows that we are really the Hospital with a heart taking care of rich and poor alike," said Dr Fores in accepting the Award.

The Asian Hospital Management Award 2002 is recognition for hospitals that implement or enhance outstanding new projects during the year and is awarded by the Hospital Management Asia Conference Committee.

The judges came from a number of international organizations including — Johns Hopkins International, The International Hospital Federation, Summa Foundation, The University of Connecticut, the Illinois State University, and the Asian Institute of Management. Winners of the Awards are determined by a thorough review of the entries submitted by hospitals in the region.

Apart from being the winner in the Customer Service Program or Project Category, Makati Medical was runner up in the following five categories:

| **Category** | **Project** |
|---|---|
| 1. Quality Management Program | MMC's Quality Management Program |
| 2. Technical Service Improvement | Going On, Still Running |
| 3. Infection Control | Antibiotic Restriction and Its Impact on Extended Spectrum B-Lactamase Production |
| 4. Internal Service | Knock! Knock! Room Service |
| 5. Community Service | Makati Health Program |

**Winners All: Representatives of Asia's winning hospitals together with Her Excellency Khun Sudarat Keyuraphan, Minister of Public Health, Thailand.**

## The three teams of judges and raters:

**Team I:** Rene Domingo of the Asian Institute of Management, Meagan Smith of Summa Foundation and Robert Beaudoin of the University of Connecticut.

**Team II** was Per-Gunnar Svensson, International Hospital Federation, Norman Moore, University of Connecticut and Mohan Chellappa, Johns Hopkins International.

**Team III** was Steve Thompson, Johns Hopkins International, Alberto Pena, Illinois State University and William Jarvis, Society for Healthcare Epidemiology of America

## The Search and Selection Procedure

The organizers asked organizations around the region to nominate deserving hospitals. Those included management consultants, ad agencies and various suppliers of hospitals. They also invited hospitals directly, to enter their favorite projects and programs.

A steering committee composed of sponsors, speakers and presenters at the Hospital Management Asia event reviewed the entries, and made their comments. The secretariat then summarized these for consideration by the board of judges and advisers. Three teams of judges were formed to decide on three categories each.

### The nine categories of the Asian Hospital Management Awards

This year, awards were made in nine categories. These cover the entire range of hospital management from customer service, Infection Control, Community Involvement to Internal Service and Quality Management. The awards recognize outstanding hospital management programs, projects, products and services in these categories:

1 Customer Service Program
2 Marketing, PR, Brand Management Project
3 IT or E-Commerce Project, Product or Service
4 Quality Management Program
5 Human Resources Development Project
6 Technical Service Improvement Project
7 Infection Control Program
8 Internal Service Project
9 Community Service Project or Program
* Special Award

## Organizations behind Hospital Management Asia 2002

International Hospital Federation

Johns Hopkins International

Private Hospital Association of Thailand

Institute of Public Service International
University of Connecticut

Summa Foundation

TÜV Product Service

GlaxoSmithKline

SANYO Sales and Marketing Corporation
and SANYO Electric Biomedical Co., Ltd.

**Dr. Raul G. Fores, President and Medical Director of Makati Medical Center, receives the award for Customer Service Program from Her Excellency Khun Sudarat Keyuraphan, Minister of Public Health, Thailand.**

## The full citation text for Makati Medical's winning project

The winning hospital started its In-patient Customer Service Program in 1973. It substantially enhanced this in 2001 by undertaking four major changes:

1. Quality Improvement Projects were made mandatory
2. The Patient Feedback Form and System was revised
3. Prevention Over Cure was made the acceptable conduct and
4. Training and retraining all 2,500 employees.

If as they say the proof of the pudding is in the eating, then this Hospital has remarkable in-patient evaluation of its services.

This hospital improved its already impressive in-patient evaluation from 96.1% "met or exceeded expectations" for January to June 2001 to 98.2% for the same period in 2002. 41% of in-patients say the hospital exceeded their expectations!

Our winning hospital is ISO 9002 and EN46002 certified. The first hospital in Asia to get both certifications. It has been profitable every year since 1974 with current revenues over US$40 million and renders care to 38,000 inpatients a year.

Ladies and gentlemen, the winner is...Makati Medical Center!

### Complete list of winners and runners up of the Hospital Management Awards

| *PROJECT* | | *HOSPITAL* | *COUNTRY* |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1 Customer Service Program | | | |
| Winner | **In-Patient Service Program** | **Makati Medical Center** | **Philippines** |
| Finalists | International Patient Center | Bumrungrad Hospital | Thailand |
| | Ambulatory Procedures Unit Model | US Naval Hospital | Japan |
| 2 Marketing, PR, Brand Management Project | | | |
| Winner | International Marketing | Bangkok Hospital | Thailand |
| Finalists | Corporate Membership programs | Beijing United Family Hospital | China |
| | Chained Hospital Management model | Phoenix Hospital Group | China |
| 3 IT or E-Commerce Project, Product or Service | | | |
| Winner | Hospital 2000 | Bumrungrad Hospital | Thailand |
| Finalist | Cyber Hospital | Canossa Hospital | Hong Kong |
| 4 Quality Management Program | | | |
| Winners | The Integration of Quality Improvement | Bangkok Hospital | Thailand |
| | JCIA Accreditation | Bumrungrad Hospital | Thailand |
| Finalist | **Quality Management Program** | **Makati Medical Center** | **Philippines** |
| 5 Human Resources Development Project | | | |
| Winner | An Integrated Career, Competency and Training Approach | Singapore General Hospital | Singapore |
| Finalists | Language Training Program | Ampang Puteri Specialist Hospital | Malaysia |
| | Human Resource Management | Sir Ganga Ram Hospital | India |
| 6 Technical Service Improvement Project | | | |
| Winners | Single sample for serum work areas | National Heart Institute | Malaysia |
| | The Six Sigma Strategy to Quality and Increased Productivity | Singapore General Hospital | Singapore |
| Finalists | Add mission of Speed and Accuracy to Admission | Canossa Hospital | Hong Kong |
| | **"Going On, Still Running"** | **Makati Medical Center** | **Philippines** |
| 7 Infection Control Program | | | |
| Winner | Hospital Infection Control Program | Sir Ganga Ram Hospital | India |
| Finalist | **Antibiotic Restriction and Its Impact on Extended Spectrum B-Lactamase Production** | **Makati Medical Center** | **Philippines** |
| 8 Internal Service Project | | | |
| Winner | Healthy Hospital and Safe Community | Princess Margaret Hospital | Hong Kong |
| Finalists | **"Knock! Knock! Room Service"** | **Makati Medical Center** | **Philippines** |
| | Balanced Scorecard for strategy deployment | Singapore General Hospital | Singapore |
| 9 Community Service Project or Program | | | |
| Winner | Community Service Program | Sir Ganga Ram Hospital | India |
| Finalists | Defeat Depression Project | Castle Peak Hospital | Hong Kong |
| | **Makati Health Program** | **Makati Medical Center** | **Philippines** |
| Special Award | | | |
| Winner | ISO 9001: 2000 Quality Management System in Blood Transfusion Service | Hong Kong Red Cross Blood Transfusion Service | Hong Kong |

**Dr. Raul G. Fores, together with the delegates of Makati Medical Center, savor the triumph of winning the Customer Service Award and runner-up prizes in five other categories.**

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 17, 2002
EUGENIA D. APOSTOL *Founding Chairman*
INQUIRER
*Vol. 17 No. 281*
*ISSN 0116-2642*

# OPINION

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THE PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER, INC. has its business and editorial offices at
•Chino Roces Ave corner Yague and Mascardo Sts., Makati City
•P.O. Box 2353 Makati Central Post Office 1263 Makati City
•Our telephone numbers are 897-8808 connecting all departments
•Editoral Fax 897-4793 / 897-4794 •Advertising 897-4807
•Circulation 527-3342 / 527-3348 / 528-0183 / 528-0186 and 528-0213 / Fax: 528-02-34.

*Publisher* **ISAGANI YAMBOT**
*Editor in Chief* **LETTY JIMENEZ-MAGSANOC**
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**EDITORIALS**

## Humorless

A MAGAZINE cover showing President Macapagal-Arroyo and four of her Cabinet members posing like the Men in Black, complete with black suits and dark glasses, has drawn flak from the opposition and some militant groups.

"Totally ridiculous!" the Bicol Women for the Advancement of Nationalism said. "Second-rate, trying-hard copycats," Pamalakaya said of the five cover persons. Sen. Teresa Aquino-Oreta said the President was putting hype over substance.

We're afraid that these people are humorless, and like the early Puritans, they suspect that some people, at some time and some place, may be having fun.

The magazine cover should be taken in the proper context. In the first place, it is the cover of a society magazine, the Philippine Tatler, which contains features and light articles. Secondly, the editor was exercising freedom of expression in parodying the Men in Black in the magazine's latest issue.

It would have been different if the five administration officials appeared in the MIB getup on the cover of a serious magazine like the Free Press. Then we would also say, "Ridiculous!"

Then President Joseph Estrada wore a camouflage uniform at the height of the offensive against the MILF in Mindanao. Aside probably from snickers behind his back, he didn't draw strong criticism for doing this. US President Bill Clinton participated in a parody of himself in a mock documentary shortly before he stepped down from the presidency.

The presidency is a heavy, crushing 7/24 job. Can't a president sometimes have fun?

## Obsessed

SEXUALLY titillating movies are in the news again. The other day the Catholic Initiative for Enlightened Movie Appreciation (Cinema) rated the movie "Bakat" morally "acceptable." It had expected the movie to be "salacious" and to have a "senseless" story.

Cinema found "Bakat" to be different because it talks about serious topics like a father's oppressive love for his children, the children's fight over their inheritance and care for the mentally ill. Recently, Cinema called the movie "Gamitan," which tells the story of a campus queen who is seduced by the campus stud, "morally disturbing."

"Laman," the story of two men and two women who exchange partners in a sexual daisy chain, was rated X before it was finally approved by the censors for showing to a mature audience.

Why is the Philippine movie industry obsessed with so-called " bold films" featuring a lot of flesh and simulated sex? One reason perhaps is that the movie industry is in the doldrums, and producers believe that the easiest way to bring the people back to the theaters is to appeal to their prurient interest.

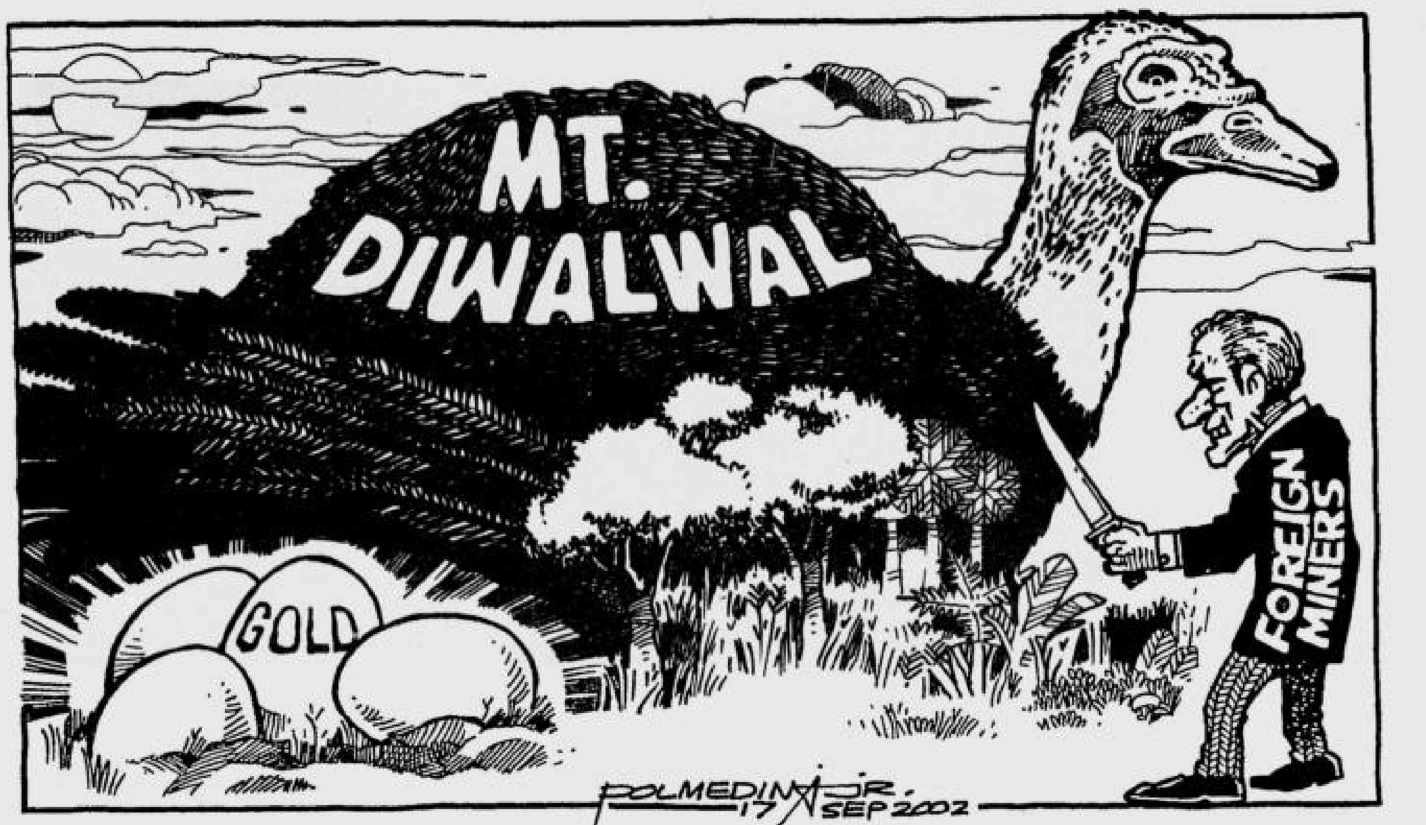
It seems that "bold films" are here to stay. In the 1980s they were called STs (sexually titillating) movies; now they are called "bold movies." Many actresses have gained prominence through "bold movies." Among them were Alma Moreno, Jaclyn Jose and Rosanna Roces, and more recently, Joyce Jimenez, Rica Peralejo and Maui Taylor.

One of the most controversial sex movies in recent times was "Live Show," which depicted the lives of young men and women who perform sex onstage. President Macapagal's banning of the film triggered the resignation of censors chief Nicanor Tiongson and a public debate on freedom of expression.

The current outcry over "bold films" brings us back to the problem of defining pornography. There is, of course, the court ruling that says that pornographic movies appeal only to the prurient interest and have no socially redeeming value.

Tiongson, in a newspaper article in 1985, expanded this definition. He said that a pornographic movie is one which photographs sexual organs and sexual movements with no reason but to arouse the moviegoers sexually. Such movies subordinate all other elements of cinema—script, acting, production design, cinematography, editing and sound—to its overriding concern with sexual stimulation.

Sexually oriented movies cannot be banned altogether, because sex is a fact of life, and cannot be swept under the carpet. But we hope our movie producers and directors would stop being obsessed with sex and explore other topics. Just as in journalism, there is no such thing as a "dead" beat, so also in filmmaking is there no dull or uninteresting subject. All that is needed are imagination, creativity and esthetic sense.



## Ban on used vehicles will hike prices of goods

**AS I SEE IT**

*Neal H. Cruz*

RECENTLY the Department of Trade and Industry tried to make President Macapagal-Arroyo sign an executive order banning the importation of second-hand vehicles. The President did not sign it.

The proposed ban was being pushed by the local car assemblers who claim that the second-hand vehicles are slowly eating up their share of the market. The DTI and the car assemblers are targeting the Subic Freeport importations.

The DTI under Secretary Mar Roxas is only running true to form. As in the cement industry where it is protecting the foreign-owned oligopoly of cement manufacturers against the interest of Filipino consumers, it is now protecting an oligopoly of foreign-owned car assemblers at the expense of Filipino entrepreneurs and small- and medium-scale businessmen. As in case of the cement industry, the proposed ban on the importation of second-hand vehicles will affect not only the vehicle industry but the whole economy.

Higher prices of cement depress the expansion of the construction industry which has a multiplier effect on other industries. They make decent homes beyond the reach of even the lower middle class. In the case of vehicles, higher prices will raise the prices of other commodities carried by land transportation. For transportation also has a multiplier effect.

The car assemblers use the sports utility vehicles (SUVs) as the excuse for complaining against the importation of second-hand vehicles. What is not generally known is that SUVs comprise only one-third of the used vehicles imported and sold at Subic by the Association of Philippine Auctioneers (APA). Two-thirds of what is auctioned there are trucks, buses, refrigerated trucks, bulldozers, tractors, dump trucks, backhoes, cement mixers and other heavy construction equipment. Ninety percent of all heavy construction equipment in the Philippines all came from the second-hand market. Many of the roads, flyovers, elevated light rail lines, bridges, buildings and other infrastructure projects were all built with the use of these second-hand equipment.

Why not, when the cost of brand-new construction equipment is beyond the reach of even big contractors whereas the cost of second-hand equipment is only 10 percent of the price of new ones. For example, the cost of a brand-new dump truck sold by local truck assemblers is P7 million. The cost of a second-hand Isuzu dump truck sold at Subic is only P700,000. A brand-new Isuzu Elf commonly used by businessmen costs bout P1.5 million without the body. But the same brand with complete body sold second-hand at Subic costs only P300,000. SUVs, smaller trucks and even haulers are sold at Subic at prices starting at P250,000 per unit or four to seven times cheaper than a brand-new counterpart sold by local assemblers.

If businessmen haul their produce to market using vehicles bought here brand-new, then their prices would be much higher because they would have to add what they paid for these vehicles to the cost of their products. For example, the price of a truckload of sand from Pampanga sold in Manila is now only P2,500. Can you imagine how many trips and how much wear and tear one dump truck will have to endure before the businessman can recover the P7 million he paid for a brand-new unit? Necessarily, the businessman will have to increase the price of his sand to recover his investment on the dump truck. And that will have a multiplier effect on all infrastructure projects, from low-cost houses to tall buildings, from feeder roads to expressways, from community halls to shopping malls. Especially since the cost of other heavy construction equipment will also rise.

That goes for all other commodities: rice from Central Luzon, vegetables from Baguio and Cavite, fish from Pangasinan, Laguna Lake and various ports, cattle and hogs from livestock raisers, canned goods, imported products from the piers--all commodities transported by land. If the cost of the vehicles transporting them is high, then the price of the goods being transported will have to be high. The Filipino consumers will get hurt--in their pockets. All because the protectionist DTI wants to protect the elitist anti-poor foreign owners of the car and truck assembly plants.

Filipino businessmen buy the second-hand vehicles because brand-new ones are too expensive and are beyond their reach. The car and truck assemblers were given countless investment and tax incentives by the government under the Progressive Car (and Truck) Manufacturing Program (PCMP), now the Motor Vehicle Development Program (MVDP), precisely to lower the cost of vehicles. They were supposed to add more and more locally produced parts to their vehicles. After 25 years of these incentives, prices of cars and trucks are much higher, not lower. The local truck "manufacturers" cannot even manufacture truck bodies at present. Trucks are imported whole. Cars are also imported whole but called "semi knocked-down" (SKD); only the batteries and tires are added locally.

These manufacturers take advantage of all the government incentives, circumvent the policies of the MVDP and evade payment of taxes and duties by importing the SKDs. In fact, the Board of Investment ordered last October all the car and truck assemblers to pay the 27-percent tax deficiency on all their previous importations. Completely built up units (CBUs) are levied a uniform 30 percent duty. Under the MVDP, the government levies only the preferred duties of 3 to 7 percent on assembly packs of CKDs and SKDs. So the assemblers import CBUs disguised as SKDs to avoid paying the higher duty. How does a CBU become an SKD? By adding locally manufactured tires and batteries to a completely built up unit.

## Germanic

**THERE'S THE RUB**

*Conrado de Quiros*

ENVIRONMENTALISTS will love this. On steel posts on every corner, you see them: posters of candidates, two or three of them at a time. The posters are of equal sizes, about three feet by three feet of thick cardboard, the faces of the candidates smiling at the public with their names, parties and slogans listed below. The corners are about 20 to 30 meters apart.

It's a couple of weeks before elections, but you won't think it is, going by the posters. Or at least it doesn't seem so by our experience of posters. You don't see the names and faces of candidates crowding each other on electrical posts, mushrooming from trees, splashed everywhere on walls, hiding the names of streets, and tacked on to every moving vehicle. In fact, you don't hear the names of the candidates screamed out from every radio or television program every few minutes. It's a very quiet way to go about holding elections.

The Greens may not win all the seats they're contesting (they're didn't do so badly in the last elections, someone tells me, but they did better before), but they would already have won a victory of sorts in this respect.

Different folks, different strokes. Some strokes are cleaner than others.

* * *

At the open forum after a series of talks, people ask questions about every conceivable aspect of elections. Who seems to have surged ahead in recent weeks, which geographical and political sector of the population the candidates have appealed to, what issues they've raised that have endeared them to or alienated them from the voters. The assumption in all this is that each vote is tallied exactly the way it is made.

No one asks a question that is very basic to those who have experienced a Third World election. I do. I say I've come from a part of the world where electoral fraud, or cheating, weighs heavily, often decisively, in elections. Has this ever been a problem in German elections?

After Reunification, the speaker says, only in the former East German sector. There was one case where the election returns in a town were invalidated because of preponderant evidence of wholesale cheating. But it hasn't been a problem in western Germany for a long time. The structures and processes pretty much guarantee that the will of the people is heard in pretty much its purest form. The only way to win the elections is to find a way to appeal to the voters, not to find a way to do *dagdag-bawas*.

They even allow people who have to leave the country for some reason or other to vote in advance. One of our guides did so just recently, as he wouldn't be around during Election Day. I asked him whom he voted for. He just smiled.

The overseas vote is an even more tremendous exercise in trust. Overseas voters may download the electoral forms through the Internet and send back their ballots either by mail or through the Internet. Elsewhere, people have better things to do than waste their time scheming to defraud the public.

I remember that some weeks ago, the groups fighting for our own overseas vote told me the number one concern of the congressmen was the cheating that was likely to happen there, particularly with the use of electronic devices. I said that was no excuse for not giving the OFWs and other Filipinos abroad the vote. In any case, as far as the electronic devices went, we have no choice but to go in that direction—even in local elections. We can't forever be using ballot boxes, which are not only more prone to cheating but which requires inordinate amounts of labor—the public school teachers' in particular—to carry out.

Doubtless, we need safeguards. But we have to embark in that direction sooner or later. Now is the best time to do it.

* * *

Everywhere, there are reminders that Germany, like Japan, lost World War II. It bears every sign of it, not least in its politics. Like Japan, it has never really had any independent foreign policy since the war, much of what passed for it being really an extension of American foreign policy. That is at least something we share with that country, notwithstanding that we were on the side of those who won the war.

Unlike Japan, however (and us), which continues not to have an independent foreign policy, Germany began to strike out on its own in the 1990s. Its membership in the European Union has emboldened to reestablish its identity not just as a European nation but as a leading light in the continent.

Gerhard Shroeder's declaration that he would not support George Bush's plan to attack Iraq in a TV debate with his closest rival, Edmund Stoiber, is the staunchest display of it so far. He has enormous credibility there, analysts say, because he had previously "unlimitedly" endorsed America's war in Afghanistan. Now, he is saying, he will draw the line at Iraq.

He also understands the public pulse, they say. There is a strong antiwar sentiment in Germany, in part because of the pacifist tradition that arose after the war, thanks in no small way to the Americans who made sure Germany would not produce another Hitler. Quite apart from that, there is strong public antipathy toward the American "war against terror" in general, most Germans expressing little confidence in George Bush's moral authority to prosecute that war.

I ask the fellow who tells me this, "What if it were another American president?" He shrugs.

One thing is certain, he says, if Shroeder wins, he will come under enormous American pressure to reverse his course and toe the American line.

Will he give in to that pressure? He shrugs again.

*Abangan ang susunod na kabanata.*

* * *

*Comments to dequiros@vasia.com*

# Congress should define 'loss of confidence'

**POLITICAL TIDBITS**

*Belinda Olivares-Cunanan*

I HAVE been following closely the moves to recall local officials in several places in the country. I find that the implications of this political instrument that's guaranteed in the Constitution are wide-ranging. Properly used, it could serve as a protection against abusive and erring local executives. But the recall mechanism is also very much open to abuse, beginning with the term often used as reason to boot out the official: "loss of confidence." Unfortunately this term has not been defined in the legislation which created the mechanism. Some recent cases have shown that there is a need to define this all-encompassing phrase.

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**While the recall mechanism was copied from US statutes, in the United States recall is effected by a direct vote of the people. In the local version, the Preparatory Recall Assembly (PRA), composed of barangay and SK officials, was introduced by the House of Representatives as an alternate method of recall during deliberations on the Local Government Code in the early 1990s. Political observers opine, however, that the direct vote by 25 percent of the constituents is superior to the PRA since the latter can be easily manipulated. That point is evident in the recall election in Puerto Princesa.**

* * *

At the moment there are recall moves in Taguig, in Catanduanes and in Cebu. But the most significant because of its far-reaching implications in local politics is the recall election in Puerto Princesa, Palawan, which was initiated against Mayor Dennis Socrates last July 7 by barangay officials. Ironically, many of these officials were themselves booted out in the barangay elections last July 15. Socrates' camp maintains that this "midnight recall process" should be enough ground to void and nullify the recall resolution.

* * *

**In addition, Socrates alleged that the process was highly flawed as it was marked by manipulation and lack of transparency. His camp claims that it has affidavits of over 130 barangay officials who were never notified of the crucial PRA meeting and about 18 others who said they got the notice four days after the meeting. His followers also say that despite their repeated requests, their people and the media were never allowed to verify the attendance sheets and no individual roll call was made to see if there was a quorum.**

**Socrates first filed his petition to nullify the PRA's resolution before the Comelec, but that poll body brushed it aside last Aug. 14 and scheduled the election last Sept. 7. On Aug. 21, Socrates filed a petition for certiorari with the Supreme Court saying the Comelec decision was issued with "grave abuse of discretion." The Court restrained the holding of Sept. 7 election and extended the campaign period, with the Comelec resetting election for Sept. 24. But the Supreme Court ruling on Socrates' petition is still being awaited. This week should be crucial to all the parties concerned.**

* * *

There's a side issue that could soon be raised to the Supreme Court: the eligibility of the colorful former Mayor Edward Hagedorn, who served for three terms, to run in this recall election. His eligibility was questioned before the Comelec by two taxpayers identified with the camp of another candidate, Vicente "Sandy" Sandoval, and if they lose in the Comelec, they are likely to bring it to the court; but doubtless, so would Hagedorn if he loses. The court has to act on this case before Sept. 24 to stave off confusion and more problems.

Under Art. X Sec. 8 of the Constitution, local officials are limited to three consecutive terms. The implication is that the same officials may run again for the same post, provided they sit out one term in between. Makati Mayor Jojo Binay let his wife Elenita run and serve one term before returning to city hall in 2001. In Hagedorn's case, however, he is running for mayor again after his third term ended in 2001, on the argument that Socrates' one and a half years as mayor already constitutes this mandated "break."

* * *

**As I wrote yesterday, however, the constitutional prohibition on running after three successive terms should be observed through the entire three years for one practical reason: the three-termer could give his successor hell by instigating a recall in order to cut short the waiting period. Lawyer Edwin Gastanes, Socrates' classmate at the UP College Law and his chief legal counsel in the recall case, cited an axiom in law that says, "What you are prohibited to do directly you are also prohibited to do indirectly." Obviously this is Hagedorn's way of re-entering city politics indirectly.**

**The Supreme Court has resolved a number of cases involving interpretations of the three-term limit of local execs, but this is the first time a three-termer is challenging the concept of the three-year "break."**

* * *

In the Puerto Princesa case, the Socrates camp points to Hagedorn as the instigator of the recall move among barangay officials. Hagedorn has not disputed this, but it's interesting to note that the barangay officials who moved for recall last July 7 had been with Hagedorn for five years (they were elected in 1997, but the barangay elections of 2000 were postponed to July 15, 2002). Interestingly, in the 2002 elections, many more anti-recall officials were elected than pro-recall, so that the results would have been very different had the issue been voted upon last August. The Comelec's first division, chaired by Commissioner Rufino Javier, doubtless was aware that the outgoing barangay officials acted in bad faith, but it chose to look the other way. The Supreme Court is the last resort for justice and fairness in this case.

# OFWs' interests vs PAL profits?

**AT LARGE**

*Rina Jimenez-David*

THERE are over 1.3 million overseas Filipino workers in the Middle East. According to Kakammpi or the Kapisanan ng mga Kamag-anak ng Migranteng Manggagawang Pilipino Inc., about 1.2 million are documented OFWs while the rest are undocumented workers or permanent residents.

The bulk of Filipinos in the Middle East—some 800,000 of them—are found in Saudi Arabia. About 103,000 are staying in the United Arab Emirates, while Kuwait and Bahrain has 35,000 and 23,000 Filipinos, respectively. This means that the Middle East plays host to between 30 and 35 percent of all OFWs at the moment.

In a statement, Kakammpi said that last year some 45,000 OFWs were deployed in the UAE, 11,000 in Qatar and 1,500 in Yemen. The number of Filipino workers deployed to these countries has been increasingly steadily, with more expected to fly to the area within the year. "In the next three years, approximately 30,000 additional job opportunities in Dubai alone will become available for OFWs," Kakammpi notes. "There are plans to expand the airport in Dubai... Additionally, development of scores of hotels, resorts, food and entertainment outlets is in the pipeline... there is indeed a pressing need to increase the number of flights between the Philippines and these three countries."

The number of flights between Manila and Dubai has been fixed at six per week—three for Emirates and three for Philippine Airlines—for many years now. However, Kakammpi points out, PAL does not itself fly to Dubai anymore and instead lends its three flight entitlements to Emirates Air under a code-sharing arrangement. "The only thing it does on this route nowadays is collect rent from Emirates, effectively earning an income for doing nothing except lobby government to perpetuate this rent-seeking situation," says this advocacy group for OFWs' rights and welfare.

* * *

**GIVEN the large number of Filipinos seeking to fly to and from Dubai and the limited number of flights available to them, the Filipino community there has long been agitating for more flights to meet the demand. Last December, representatives of Kakammpi urged President Macapagal-Arroyo to act favorably on a petition filed by Emirates Airlines for an additional 10 special flights on the Dubai-Manila route for the Christmas season.**

**"Fortunately, President Arroyo acted on our request and prevented thousands of OFWs from being stranded in Dubai," said the group's chairperson, Fe Nicodemus.**

**To remedy this perennial shortage, Kakammpi's officers appeared before the special executive panel meeting of the RP air negotiating panel last February, in a bid to get their support for an increase in flight entitlements between the Philippines and the UAE, Qatar and Yemen.**

**They were encouraged after the government agreed to increase the flight entitlements of Qatar Airways, with additional flights granted on the Doha-Manila, Doha-Clark and Doha-Cebu routes. "Our hopes were raised even further when an air service agreement was signed between the Philippines and UAE last April 1," writes Kakammpi, which "paved the way for the talks which were originally scheduled for April 29 and 30." But without warning, the Civil Aeronautics Board decided to postpone the talks, "first indefinitely, then last Aug. 23 rescheduled them for Sept. 25 only to be cancelled again this month."**

* * *

TO JUSTIFY the cancellation of the talks scheduled for this month, the Department of Transportation and Communications produced a letter from Foreign Secretary Blas Ople requesting that the air services consultation talks with Bahrain and the UAE be deferred "in view of the need to prepare for the impending RP-Japan talks and the RP-US talks."

Kakammpi, however, smells a conspiracy or collusion afoot. The group asks: "Is (Transportation) Secretary Leandro Mendoza paying back his PAL patron for his miraculous one-day confirmation at the Commission on Appointments, something that eluded his predecessor because the latter chose to place the interest of the country ahead of a single private entity…?"

The organization also wants to know why Mendoza has retained the services of Emmanuel Cruz as special adviser. Cruz, the group reminds, was the CAB executive director under deposed President Joseph Estrada, "installed there by the same PAL patron with the sole task of ensuring control over the government's aviation regulator." Not surprisingly, they say, Cruz has been "conveniently 'sitting in' for Mendoza in the CAB meetings, executive sessions and public hearings."

* * *

**EMIRATES Airlines has already said publicly that it can sustain up to 14 flights a week or twice daily flights for the Manila-Dubai route. "We in Kakammpi fully agree with this. The demand for flights to Dubai has gone beyond seasonal highs and lows and (the flights) have been consistently full. Right now our workers have to wait three to six months to get a seat on a flight to Dubai. There have been many instances when our workers' contracts were cancelled because they could not report for work on time."**

**The timing of the talks and the scheduling of extra flights is "extra critical" at this time, the group points out. The holiday season is approaching and families have to make plans for their holiday breaks, while airlines have to begin allocating additional flights, if possible.**

**Couldn't Mendoza and other DOTC officials give our OFWs a break this time and go ahead with the talks? Or is the interest of one airline a higher priority than the interests of our overseas workers and the national interest?**

# Child of Silver, Child of Gold

**SENSE AND SENSIBILITY**

*Bambi L. Harper*

POLITICIANS especially like talking about bringing back "the glory of Manila" as though using up tons of cement, putting up fake Greek pillars and installing oversized fountains and kitschy plant boxes together with a couple of stalactites are all that it takes. The truth is that the Manila they refer to died together with those 100,000 Manileños in February 1945 in the process of being liberated. What is really happening in the meantime is that Manila is being transformed into the image and likeness of whoever sits as mayor and, since no higher authority appears to care one way or another what the capital of this country looks like, the citizens may as well resign themselves to the vagaries of whatever passes for taste in this benighted country.

Reading observations by Americans who came to save us (for some reason no one has managed to save us from ourselves) at the turn of the century is always amusing, particularly when you take a look around and see what happened.

To Philip II, Manila in 1593 might have been his "very noble and always loyal city," but according to a certain Mrs. Garnett, the Tagals called her "Child of Silver and Child of Gold." No one in those days could land in Manila and not take note of Intramuros. The walls were for some Americans "picturesque, venerable, (and) useless" even if they "constituted the most perfect surviving specimen of what passed for the highest reach of the art of fortification two hundred years ago." Apparently there was a plan to "eventually fill up the unsanitary old moats, which will also be to reclaim for the government many acres of valuable land to be sold or leased."

"As the moss-grown, earthquake-rent walls would not withstand a bombardment nor, minus the moat, keep out a storming column, they, too, will doubtless go in time, turned into a supply-quarry for building blocks."

Obviously the image of "an ancient feudal fortress in the heart of the tropics" had no charm for some of those Americans. (But later more cultured minds prevailed and the decision was reversed. All things considered, it might not be a bad idea, according to my late brother who felt the present caretakers had fouled it up so thoroughly it didn't make any difference whether P300 million of your money and mine was spent restoring them. And since our passion are glitzy high rises, why not? Given the evidence that Intramuros isn't of much interest to the higher authorities either— just look at what that last piece of unfortunate flotsam did to it.)

The "squatness" of Intramuros, according to Mrs. Garnett, came from the fear of earthquakes that caused them to build up to two stories only. There were "straight partially grass-grown streets, great, gloomy, stone, square buildings, musty walls and low roofs of tile or metal—a city somber, silent and austere." Almost all the government offices—the post office, cable and telegraph offices, customs, treasury building and city hall—were there, except for some barracks and workshops of the artillery and engineering departments.

The governor-general once lived there, but after the destruction of his old palace in 1863, his residence was transferred to Malacañang, "a rambling, immense chalet of great elegance, surrounded with magnificent gardens."

In Intramuros lived "the real ruler of the Philippines during more than three centuries, the archbishop of Manila. Nozaleda had made little change outward in his style of living, occupying the same stained and weather-beaten two-story house as his predecessors, but entering which the visitor passes through apartments of such magnificence as to make him cease to wonder why Manila calls it 'the palace.'"

There was little trade within the Walled City except for a few retail shops and craftsmen's rooms. The residences were thick-walled, two-story buildings of stone, with heavy buttresses thrust so far out on the narrow walkways that pedestrians had to walk in single file. The Spaniards built close out to the sidewalk, with a balcony forming an overhang. From 9 a.m. to past mid-afternoon, the front was closed with heavy awnings. With the exception of the servants and the dogs peering through the iron gratings on street level "one might fancy himself in a city of the dead," so bereft it seemed of life.

In the early morning and evening, families congregated on the balcony to chat with passersby. At the same time, pedestrians had to keep a lookout for waste water being thrown down from above.

During the Spanish period, before the advent of the Gringo hundreds of friars would emerge at about sunset from the heavy portals of their convents to take their *paseo* along the bay.

"Between February and March 1945, MacArthur's forces 'liberated' the city. But that liberation entailed wholesale destruction. By the first week of March, the 'Pearl of the Orient' was no more: only a handful of blackened, smoking ruins interrupted the now startlingly clear view from one edge of the city to the other," according to the book "The Battle for Manila."

The city by the bay does not have a memorial to that destruction. But then it is now a city without a memory anyway.

# Interconnected

**YOUNG BLOOD**

*Camillo Nogoy*

*We want to know what the young are thinking about. What are their thoughts on current issues? We welcome contributions from the twentysomething and below.—Ed.*

IT WAS a beautiful April morning. The sky was just perfect—not too bright, and not too dark. I had just bought a piping hot breakfast from my favorite fast-food chain along Katipunan. I could smell the aroma of the sandwich and the hash brown.

I was going to school when I saw a boy asleep on the overpass. He had a flattened box for a mattress and from his sleeping position, I could tell that he was feeling cold. So I gave him a part of my breakfast, placing it by his side and hoping nobody would take it while he was asleeping. Then I went on my way.

I haven't seen the boy since. But I think about him once in a while. Especially now, when our country is experiencing a lot of difficulties (which I think is an understatement). With all the debates about the Mutural Logistic Support Agreement with the United and the President's idea of a "strong republic," I ask myself: Where will the boy and millions like him be situated? Will they again be on the losing end?

They say that we are all interconnected. A decision or action that I make today will affect even those whom I thought would not be affected by it. Then I think about my position on current issues. Will it help the boy I saw on the overpass?

Let's take the MLSA. Hypothetically, I say I am all for it. I want protection from terrorists. I say yes to the campaign against terrorism that America has been waging. However, my support for the MLSA may also mean giving my consent to US dumping of more toxic wastes in our country. It may mean that I agree that they can make another group of children with cerebral palsy caused by the toxic wastes. Internationally, my yes may mean that I am all for being a target of numerous anti-American countries and groups and thus the deaths of numerous civilians. Worst, my yes may be interpreted as saying: "Okay, Joe, you can have my country. It's all yours."

I wonder if other people have in their minds their own poor boy sleeping on the overpass. The senators who are bickering all the time, do they ever think about the poor and the needy? GMA, with her unqualified support for the United States, has she thought about how this decision can affect the impoverished Filipinos? Satur Ocampo and his militant supporters, with their perpetual rallying against the government, do they really have the poor in mind? The youth, do they take a stand on current issues? Or do they just wonder how they could get hold of the latest cellular phone model whose price can feed a family of six for several months?

Even the decisions that we make on what we consider to be mundane things may affect others. The seemingly simple decision of not tuning to the news but to MTV instead may affect the lives of others. Let's ask ourselves: When was the last time that we made a decision that was for the good of the poor or for others in general? Last week? Last month? Never?

One doesn't have to see a boy sleeping on the overpass to see the need to make well thought-out decisions. If we believe we don't live in this world just for our own sake but for the sake of others, too, then we may be on the right track.

*Camillo Nogoy, 19, is third year philosophy major at Ateneo de Manila University.*

# Incomplete

*Koko Campiglio*

SOMETIMES it is thrust into my face that I am not a complete person. This world is a hearing world, and I'm trying to live in it even though I am a stranger who can never completely adapt and never completely fit in.

To be honest, I have never gotten used to this rude reality. I pretend to be angry or disgusted, but really what I feel is an unusual type of pain. It's the loss of a limb, the loss of a part of myself, the loss of an illusion. I tell myself I can be normal, I can fit in and I can do anything I want to do. But there's no denying it: I am not "differently-abled." I am disabled. I am handicapped.

My brain is fast. I catch on quickly, and I change parts of myself every day in an attempt to be able to function. I force a non-functional sense of mine to play a part that it can no longer play. I force my ears to listen to words and sounds that they cannot hear. But I have limits. No matter how far I try to push myself, I have limits that are so much lower than those of most people.

I could retreat into a world where everyone is deaf, where everyone is like myself, where my pains and frustrations would be shared. There I wouldn't be considered handicapped; I would be a fully functional, normal human being.

But I don't do this. I don't do this, because I've told myself over and over again that it is not what I want. I was born into this world, into this place, and I don't want to lose my friends, my family, my life over a bunch of dead nerve cells in my head, over something I cannot control. To do that would be devastating. I've been fighting for 14 years, and I'm going to keep fighting until I die.

So instead I rely on other human beings to be my ears. Sometimes they come through, but more often than not they don't. More often than not I find myself alone in a group of people, watching them interact, and feeling myself retreat to the back of my head, reduced to whimpering and sniffling. I sit back, cradling the child inside of me that never grew up, telling her it's ok—I'll be ok. And she and I cry together because we both know it's a lie.

It happened again today. It was thrust into my face that I'm not whole, I'm broken, I depend on other human beings to function, and when those human beings don't come through, I don't function. I was supposed to attend a seminar tomorrow, but the agency that was supposed to provide interpreters said it couldn't do so.

But I am still going tomorrow. I dreading going and sitting and straining to hear, to understand what the teacher is saying. I sitting among people who can understand so easily, and who take so many notes and interacting with the teacher and the other people. I dreading that feeling of being the only person who doesn't belong.

But I'm going. I'm going because I'm sad, because I'm angry, because I'm hurting. Because I won't allow the world to do this to me.

*Koko Campiglio, 21, works at People Support, a call center.*

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# Let Fernando do his job

NOW is the time for Metro Manilans to show their unqualified support for MMDA Chairman Bayani Fernando as he performs his difficult task of transforming Metro Manila into a cleaner, more disciplined, livable and efficient metropolis.

As he goes about his job, there are the usual hecklers and obstructionists on the sidelines who trying to disrupt and meddle with Fernando's mandate. I am referring to people such as Rep. Augusto Syjuco who should instead spend his time taking care of his constituents in his congressional district in Iloilo and not meddle here in Metro Manila, grandstanding or rather running priest Fr. Robert Reyes who should instead concentrate on the spiritual needs of his parishioners, noisy leftist militants who should instead get a life and be productive citizens instead of agitating and herding people to demonstrate against Fernando and of course the army of illegal street and sidewalk vendors who should stop invoking their so-called poverty as an excuse to violate laws and ordinances and instead ply their wares inside public markets just like other legitimate traders.

It is a pity that after finding the right person to do the job, Fernando's efforts are being sabotaged and derailed by people who, it appears, would rather see a dirty and chaotic metropolis.

**—FERDIE T. SIBAL, 18 Green Leaves St., Capitol Green Village, Tandang Sora, QC**

# De Venecia's creative solution

THE COCO-INDUSTRY Rationalization Movement Inc., in its letter of Sept. 9, said the levy fund is for the benefit of coconut farmers and should not be used to reduce the budget deficit.

We cannot agree more. Speaker Jose de Venecia's proposal for the courts to decide expeditiously on the coco levy fund once and for all fully recognizes that the fund is the money of coconut farmers and should be used to modernize the distressed coconut industry and uplift the lives of millions of Filipinos. Using the levy fund precisely and only for this purpose will ease the pressure on the national government to appropriate funds for modernizing the industry. Government funds could then be allocated to other sectors. In this sense the budget deficit could be narrowed—and everyone, notably the coconut farmers would be assured that the levy fund would not be misused.

De Venecia's proposal is an attempt to bring a creative solution to this long-standing problem on the coco levy—while also addressing the budget deficit. The levy fund, therefore, would be redirected to where it must be fully mobilized—and not stay unutilized for years beyond the access of suffering coconut farmers.

**—NOEL A. ALBANO, deputy secretary general, Public Relations & Information, House of Representatives**

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# 'Amoy Amerika'

## PINOY KASI

*Michael L. Tan*

THERE is a classic photograph of the biologist Konrad Lorenz walking with a gaggle of geese faithfully trailing behind. Lorenz had conducted experiments where he would be around when goose eggs hatched. Lorenz being the first face they saw, the geese were "imprinted"—convinced he was Mother Goose and following him around.

We are a nation imprinted on Mother America and we forget how the US military bases played a vital role in this imprinting to create America's most loyal, most uncritical client state.

In 1898, shortly after we declared independence from Spain, our first republic was crushed by the United States, their bases set up for colonial occupation. But even after we regained independence in 1946, we agreed to let the bases stay as part of a mutual defense treaty. We believed the bases were there to protect us from local communists (including those who opposed the bases), from "Red China," from enemies still to come.

Then, as now, few dared to ask why we were leaving it to the US government to decide who those enemies were. We were convinced we would be defenseless without America when in reality, the bases transformed us into magnets for America's enemies, drawing us into America's wars.

Only in the late 1960s, with a resurgence of nationalism, did Filipinos begin to see the bases in a different light: as symbols of imperial America. Some of the discontent grew out of the many instances of GI's violating local laws, the most notorious ones involving the fatal shooting of local residents. Base officials would declare the incidents accidental; Filipinos, it seemed, were prone to being mistaken for wild pigs.

When base officials would be asked about reports that the trigger-happy soldier had been shipped back home, the standard reply was to "neither confirm nor deny" it. It was the same answer we would get when anti-bases activists asked if the bases stored nuclear weapons, or if the bases were being used as docking points by planes or ships carrying such weapons.

We learned not to ask questions, docile imprinted geese that we were. We were told such incidents were isolated and, hey, look at what the bases offered, a cornucopia of "stateside" goods, everything from furniture to breakfast cereals to blue seal cigarettes to Playboy magazine. I didn't realize how deeply embedded this PX mentality was until I met someone who urged me to smell the upholstery of a newly-bought sofa from "the base," still wrapped in plastic. "Amoy Amerika!" our PX junkie sighed ecstatically. I guess imprinting isn't just visual.

Blessed then were those who knew someone who knew someone living next to the cousin-in-law of someone working in the bases. That wasn't too difficult—the bases were the second largest employer in the country after the Philippine government.

When it seemed like the Americans would be asked to leave, it wasn't just the 43,000 base employees who protested. There were thousands of others who benefited indirectly, including those working in the bars and brothels that serviced the soldiers' rest and recreation (R&R) needs.

The bases' R&R industry produced endless scripts for soap operas on radio, television, even movies. They were mostly stories of women who saw the bases as more than PX, hopes for a way out of the misery here, via a stateside husband, only to realize that they were meant, like the motel rooms, for "short-time." We even coined the phrase "*hanggang pier lang*," referring to the sad scenes of women waving goodbye at the pier, to feckless US sailors who will never return.

We don't hear as much about the Amerasian children, some ending up in the trade that conceived them. Or the drug problem, which exploded at the height of the Vietnam War in the 1970s, when syndicates saw the huge market that came with shell-shocked American soldiers.

We don't hear of the bouts with sexually transmitted diseases such as "Vietnam Rose," the term referring to gonorrhea brought in by US soldiers. In the 1980s, we did hear about HIV/AIDS and how it had hit sex workers in Angeles and Olongapo. The US government responded swiftly by setting up facilities to test the women. Let's keep 'em clean for our boys.

"My brother is not a pig," Nora Aunor wails in one of those movies about the bases. But such movies did not quite reflect the general sentiment. The bases had captured Filipino minds and hearts. The surveys showed the majority wanted the bases to stay, with our leaders, including then President Corazon Aquino, urging an extension of the treaty with rentals.

But even there the American government was offended—how dare these natives negotiate for rent. In 1990, as the bases negotiations went into high gear, the Bush administration (the father of the current Bush was president then) slashed aid to the Philippines by $96 million. The signal was clear: you take what we offer you.

On Sept. 16, 1991, at 8:13 p.m., Senate President Jovito Salonga announced: "By a vote of 12-11, the treaty is defeated."

For a brief moment, it seemed like we had overcome our imprinting.

But the day after that historic vote, there was talk that President Aquino was going to call a national referendum to overturn the Senate decision.

There was no need for the referendum. Today, without having to maintain their own bases, Bush Junior and the US government know they have full access to our land, sea and skies—and throw in a few battalions of Filipino soldiers.

We remain a nation imprinted.

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# Number of reported rapes declined in 2001

**By Leila B. Salaverria**

AN AVERAGE of seven women a day were reported raped in 2001, down from an average of nine reported cases a day in 2000, according to figures from the National Statistical Coordination Board.

A total of 2,611 rape cases were reported last year, 15 percent down from 3,071 in 2000. Rape incidence for 2001 was pegged at 3.35 per 100,000 (population count), down from 4.02 in 2000.

This year, Region IV (Southern Tagalog) listed the highest number of reported cases with 410, down from 497 in 2000. Region V (Bicol) came in second with 304, down from 339.

Region III (Central Luzon) listed 221; Region VII (Central Visayas), 197, and the National Capital Region, 188. Statistics for Region III and the NCR each reflected a decrease as well, while reported cases in Region VII were up from 202 in 2000.

]The Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao, Cordillera Autonomous Region and the Region XIII (Caraga) reported the lowest number of rape cases for two straight years. For 2001, ARMM reported 12 rape cases, unchanged from 2000; CAR had 56, down from 85; and Region XIII had 82, down from 104. However, the incidence in CAR was high, at 3.90 per 100,000.

Regions I (Ilocos), X (Northern Mindanao) and II (Cagayan Valley) also reported lower numbers for 2001, with 117, 126 and 128 cases, respectively.

Region V registered the highest incidence, with 6.29 per 100,000; followed by Region XII (Central Mindanao), 5.25; Region II, 4.46; Region X, 4.45; Region VIII (Eastern Visayas), 4.21; and Region IX (Western Mindanao), 4.15.

The numbers peaked at 3,177 in 1999. Last year's figures were the lowest since the passing of the Anti-Rape Law in 1997.

# Would-be OFWs warned

THE PROFESSIONAL Regulation Commission (PRC) yesterday warned Filipino workers, especially nurses and teachers, about the growing number of syndicates selling fake licenses.

PRC chair Antonieta Fortuna-Ibe said the Philippine Postal Corp. intercepted around 20,000 examination results bearing fake PRC stamps being mailed to medical, engineering, teaching and nursing board examinees this year.

"I feel the number of fake licenses will increase with demand," Ibe said.

She said fixers charged up to P100,000, depending on their services, which could include producing fake documents. *Blanche S. Rivera*

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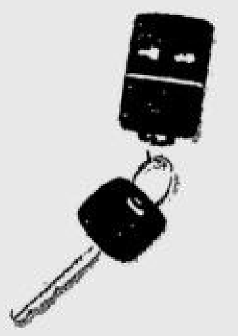

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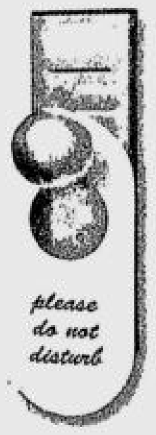

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# The WORLD

Editor **Luverne B. Gueco**

# Scientist says Iraq can build nuke bomb now

**LONDON—Iraq could build a nuclear bomb by the end of the year, according to a dissident Iraqi nuclear scientist quoted by a British newspaper on Monday.**

Khidir Hamza, who helped launch Iraq's nuclear bomb program before he defected in 1994, said President Saddam Hussein's regime could produce the weapons in the next three months using pirated German equipment and uranium smuggled from Brazil, The Times reported.

"Unless he is stopped soon Saddam will have set up a whole nuclear bomb industry, not just have made a couple of bombs," Hamza said.

He told the paper that even if UN inspectors returned to Iraq and were given unrestricted access to suspected weapons sites, it would be difficult to detect bomb-building assembly lines. "The beauty of the present system is that the units are each very small and in the four years since the inspectors left, they will have been concealed underground or in basements or buildings that outwardlly seem normal," Hamza said.

International pressure is mounting on Iraq to allow the return of weapons inspectors, as the United States continues a campaign to win allied support for a strike aimed at toppling Saddam.

The United States emphasized Sunday that it wanted the UN Security Council to adopt a resolution that would give Saddam just weeks to comply with past resolutions on the destruction of its weapons.

In Washington, US intelligence officials fear that Saddam Hussein has drafted a "doomsday plan" to help al-Qaida attack the United States with biological weapons in the event of a US strike against Iraq, the New York Post reported Monday.

The threat has been raised in secret intelligence assessments provided to top military officials and White House policymakers as they prepare for war, according to the daily Post.

Officials told the newspaper they were considering such nightmare scenarios as concealed briefcase bio-bombs, which Saddam might provide to terrorists if the United States attacked Iraq.

Officials believe Saddam could provide al-Qaida or other terror groups with biological agents that could be smuggled into US and Israeli cities.

Such bio-weapons would be small, easy to conceal and extremely difficult for US customs of border control officials to detect, the newspaper wrote. *AFP*

# Maoists paralyze Katmandu

KATMANDU—Nepal's capital Katmandu came to a standstill Monday with traffic off the streets and businesses closed after Maoist rebels called a dawn-to-dusk strike.

The guerrillas, who are fighting to topple the constitutional monarchy, ordered the strike to press their demand that Nepal convene a special assembly to redraft the constitution.

Katmandu's normally bustling streets were quiet, with all vehicles save a few bicycles and motorbikes off the streets. Several government cars were also seen defying the strike.

Reports from outside the capital said the strike was similarly observed in much of the kingdom.

Security was visibly stepped up in Katmandu to prevent any attacks by the Maoists, whose insurgency has killed more than 4,700 people since 1996 and who have planted a series of bombs in the capital.

Police said they detained one man near a government revenue office in Katmandu who was believed to have had a bomb. He was being questioned.

Four bombs went off in the capital Sunday morning, although no one was hurt.

Security forces were particularly deployed around key government installations.

"There is no report of any incident during the strike so far, while the security forces have been kept highly alert," a government official said.

The Maoists frequently call strikes in bids to show the support for their cause.

However, residents say the rebels have been ruthless in their attacks on anyone defying the strike call, often attacking those who dare to venture out or shopkeepers who do not down their shutters.

Security forces have appealed to transport companies to run as normal despite the threat of violence. *AFP*

**KASHMIRI** people queue outside a polling station secured with barbed wire at the village of Nutnunsa. REUTERS

# Kashmir polls not as bloody as many feared

KUPWARA, India—A 16-year-old boy was killed in rocket fire Monday at a polling booth in Kashmir, where hundreds of thousands of soldiers and police were on alert against militant attacks as residents of the Indian state voted in critical legislative elections.

Police said Muslim militants fired the rocket at a polling booth Seri Khwaja, about 190 km northwest of Jammu, the winter capital of India's Jammu-Kashmir state. The rocket fire created a scare among voters, but voting resumed.

In another village, two civilians were injured in a grenade explosion and were rushed to the hospital from the village of Shalal in the Kupwara district, about 100 km north of Srinigar, the summer capital of Kashmir.

But by the standards of Kashmir, which faces near-daily violence, the first few hours of voting had been far less bloody than many here had feared.

Kashmir, a flash point between India and Pakistan for five decades, has seen increasingly bloody attacks in recent weeks, with separatist militants opposed to the election stepping up their campaign of violence.

The militants have threatened to kill anyone — voters, polling workers or candidates — who participate in the vote.

Turnout was very light early Monday, with some polling stations seeing just one voter in the first hour. But by noon, 12 percent of registered voters had cast their ballots in the Kupwara and Baramula districts, election officials said.

Some voters said they refused to be intimidated by the militant threats.

"This is our freedom, to choose who we want, so why should we be scared?" asked Abdul Khaliq Malik, a civil servant casting his vote at a heavily guarded high school in Kupwara, one of the most violent regions of Kashmir. Dozens of soldiers, in full battle gear and carrying automatic weapons or manning mortar positions, surrounded the school. *AP*

# Arabs press Saddam to comply

UNITED NATIONS—Saudi Arabia has turned up the pressure on Baghdad, hinting that it might offer its desert installations as a jump-off base for any US military campaign against Iraq—as long as such an attack had UN sanction.

But the Saudi foreign minister, Prince Saud al-Faisal, also said the rest of the world clearly wants the Iraq crisis resolved without "the firing of a single shot."

Saud's statement was issued Sunday in New York as the UN General Assembly wrapped up the fourth day of its opening general debate, a day on which other Arab leaders also addressed the explosive impasse over Iraq.

Syria's foreign minister said "blind bias" was focusing global attention on Iraq rather than Israel. Jordan urged Iraq to comply with UN resolutions and avert "dire consequences" for its people.

As the Bush administration in recent months raised this possibility of a unilateral US attack on Iraq, the Saudis ruled out use of their bases for such a campaign.

Some 5,000 US military personnel are stationed in Saudi Arabia, most at the remote Prince Sultan Air Base. In the 1991 Gulf War, Saudi Arabia was the main base for a half-million-strong, US-led military force that drove the Iraqi army from Kuwait. But since then the Saudis have periodically prohibited the use of their soil for strikes against Iraq and, more recently, limited the use of their bases for the US campaign in Afghanistan. *AP*

# US missions in Jakarta, KL reopen

JAKARTA—US embassies in Malaysia and Indonesia reopened Monday after closing because of security threats that preceded the anniversary of the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks, officials said.

But the missions in Phnom Penh, Cambodia, and Hanoi, Vietnam, remained closed until further notice, embassy officials said. The US Consulate in Ho Chi Minh City, however, has reopened.

After briefly reopening last week, the embassy in Vietnam was shut again Friday while its "security posture" was further evaluated, the embassy said in a statement released Monday.

"In light of the anniversary of the Sept. 11, 2001, attacks, we cannot rule out the possibility that attacks may occur against US embassies or consulates," the statement said.

In Indonesia, the US Consulate in Surabaya, Indonesia, also reopened. But embassy officials on Sunday warned US citizens to avoid facilities associated with the US Embassy as information about a security threat "remains serious and compelling."

The embassy in Jakarta was closed last Tuesday due to what US Ambassador Ralph Boyce called a "credible and specific threat" to security that he suggested was linked to the al-Qaida terrorist network. *AP*

**WORLD'S OLDEST WOMAN** REUTERS

A Japanese woman said to be the world's oldest person turned 115 on Monday. But Kamato Hongo, who lives in the southwestern city of Kagoshima, failed to stay awake for her big day. "She has been in a deep sleep since 2 this morning, maybe because she got excited after seeing many visitors yesterday, on Respect for the Aged Day," the Kyodo news agency quoted daughter Shizue Kurauchi, 78, as saying. Hongo, born in 1887, now sticks to a unique cycle of staying awake for two straight days and then sleeping for two days.

# Rat poison suspected

NANJING, China— Investigators suspect rat poison is to blame for a mass poisoning in eastern China that is believed to have killed dozens of people, a health official said Monday.

Authorities refused to release a death toll in Saturday's poisonings, traced to a snack shop in a rural area on the outskirts of the city of Nanjing. But state media suggested that dozens of people might have been killed, including children, and said more than 200 people were sickened.

Police were questioning the manager of a company that supplied food to the shop, the state newspaper China Daily reported.

"Examination of the samples sent from hospitals showed it's rat poison," said an official reached by telephone at the Jiangsu Province Epidemic Prevention Station. He wouldn't give his name.

A spokesperson for the Nanjing city government denied Hong Kong newspaper reports that 41 people were killed, but she refused to release an official death toll.

China's Cabinet and Communist Party headquarters in Beijing have sent investigators to Nanjing and ordered "strenuous efforts" to uncover the cause, according to state newspapers.

Many of those affected were students at the nearby Zuochang Middle School and migrant construction workers, according to state media.

They became sick after eating fried dough sticks, sesame cakes and glutinous rice bought at a branch of the Heshengyuan Soybean Milk Shop, the reports said.

Students and teachers at the military-run Nanjing Artillery Institute also were sickened, according to teachers contacted by telephone at the Zuochang school. They wouldn't give their names.

People who answered the phone at the artillery institute referred questions to the provincial propaganda office, which refused to release any information.

Chinese authorities routinely suppress information about disasters and other events that might hurt the communist government's image.

Officials are especially anxious before a major Communist Party congress in November, when President Jiang Zemin is expected to step down as party leader. *AP*

## THE DAILY GOSPEL

Tuesday, September 17, 2002
24th Week in Ordinary Time

1st Reading: 1 Cor 12:12-14, 27-31
Gospel: Lk 7:11-17

Jesus went to a town called Naim and many of his disciples went with him—a great number of people. As he reached the gate of the town, a dead man was being carried out. He was the only son of his mother and she was a widow; there followed a large crowd of townspeople.

On seeing her, the Lord had pity on her and said, "Don't cry." Then he came up and touched the stretcher and the men who carried it stopped. Jesus then said, "Young man, awake, I tell you." And the dead man got up and began to speak, and Jesus gave him to his mother. A holy fear came over them all and they praised God saying, "A great prophet has appeared among us; God has visited his people." This news spread out in the Jewish country and the surrounding places.

**Commentary**

*In the olden times orphans and widows stood low in the rung of society. They were easy preys of exploitation and deprivation. That is why, to do justice meant among other things, to defend them and to see to their sustenance. Before the funeral cortege, Luke depicts Jesus to be a great prophet who manifests the justice of God. His entrails (Greek, splangchna=womb) were moved, as a mother who cannot stand being unaffected by a pathetic situation of her children. As church people, we can act more prophetically when the poor people's state of injustice deeply affects us. How many of us have become calloused because of our distance from the actual lives of our people?*

*Claretian Publications Inc., 8 Mayumi St., UP Village, Diliman, Quezon City, UP P.O. Box 4, Diliman, 1101 Quezon City; Tel.: 921-3984; Fax: 921-7429; E-mail: claret@cn1.net; Websites: http://www.bible.claret.org (Claretian Publications Inc.) & http://missionaries.claret.org (Claretians in the Philippines)*

## SUPREME COURT DOCTRINES

CRIMINAL LAW (CRIMES AGAINST PROPERTY)—Special complex crime of robbery with homicide—Accused appellants' contention that at most they could only be held liable for either robbery or homicide, but not the special complex crime of robbery with multiple homicide due to prosecution's failure to establish the elements warranting conviction for the crime, is untenable. The offenses cannot be considered as separate crimes as the homicide was committed on the occasion and by reason of the robbery. *Aliud ex alio malum.* One evil arises out of another. Hence, these offense with their respective components have been treated as a single crime otherwise known as a special complex crime particularly covered by Art. 294, par. 1 of the Revised Penal Code. The following elements must be proved: (a) the taking of personal property with violence or intimidation against persons; (b) that the property taken belongs to another; (c) the taking was done with *animo lucrandi*; and, (d) on the occasion of robbery or by reason thereof homicide was committed. The killing of the victims fulfills the last element, while the victim's testimony that the accused-appelant together with his unidentified companion took the money from the cashier's box including the victim's wallet, satisfies the first 3 elements. In robbery, the amount of money and the number of personal belongings taken are inconsequential in proving the commission of the crime, as what is vital is that the taking and the intent to gain have been proved. This the prosecution has adequately established. [Citations omitted.] [En Banc, Justice Bellosillo, People v. Cariño, G.R. No. 141737, March 20, 2002]

DIGEST BY R.B. VERA-

## Across the NATION

Assistant Editor Tony Bergonia

# 'Jueteng' rivalry seen behind assassination try

**CITY OF SAN FERNANDO—Police have linked suspected jueteng lord Rodolfo "Bong" Pineda and members of the Red Vigilante Group to the attempted slaying of a suspected jueteng financier here Sunday night, a top Pampanga police official said.**

PINEDA

"We have widened the scope (of our investigation) and (the list of) suspects," said Senior Supt. Rodolfo Mendoza, Pampanga police director.

Also included among the suspects in the attempted slaying of Melchor Caluag, barangay captain of Dolores here and a suspected jueteng operator in the province, were rival illegal gambling operators in Pampanga and police scalawags.

Mendoza said Caluag, also known as "Ngongo," was leaving the Mel-Vi Building in the busy Dolores section of the Gapan-San Fernando Highway at 7 p.m. Sunday when armed men shot him.

Caluag, 31, suffered two bullet wounds in the chest and stomach. Five other bullets grazed him in various parts of the body, a relative told the INQUIRER.

From the Makabali Hospital here where he was first taken, Caluag was transferred at 10 p.m. Sunday to the St. Luke's Medical Center in Quezon City.

One of his male aides, who suffered from a bullet wound, also survived the attack.

Mendoza said police investigators were looking at a possible rivalry among jueteng operators as motive for the attack. He did not elaborate.

He said the rumored comeback of Pineda, who reportedly controlled jueteng operations from the early 1980s to January 2001, was not being ignored and was "possibly also an angle" in the attack.

Caluag was said to be paying at least P1 million a month to Pineda as "royalty fee" for operating the game in Pampanga, Pineda's former turf.

Pineda left for the United States last month after former Ilocos Sur Gov. Luis "Chavit" Singson accused him of complicity in the alleged commission of plunder by Estrada, INQUIRER sources said.

A relative of Caluag, who called the INQUIRER but asked not to be named, linked the assault to the rivalry of jueteng operators in Pampanga.

Lubao Mayor Dennis Pineda told the INQUIRER on Monday that his father had nothing to do with the attack. *Tonette Orejas and Jun Malig, PDI Central Luzon Desk, with a report from Yolanda Fuertes, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau*

# Poverty hounds priests nearing retirement age

**By Gia Damaso-Dumo**
*PDI Northern Luzon Bureau*

SAN FERNANDO CITY—Even priests are not spared from retirement woes.

For a diocesan priest, the anxiety is magnified as he nears the mandatory retirement age of 75 and he finds himself assigned to a remote and collection-poor barrio.

In the Diocese of San Fernando here, a new salary standardization scheme for priests may put all these worries to rest.

Circular No. 6 of 2002, issued by Bishop Antonio Tobias and read in Sunday Masses last week, sought not only to standardize priests' salaries whether one is serving in a high-income or a low-income parish.

It also paved the way for a general reshuffle of priests to begin in January 2003, a bold move considering that the last successful reshuffle was implemented 20 years ago.

In 1991, during the time of the late Bishop Salvador Lazo, a similar move was tried but it "became a fiasco" due to the apparent resistance of older priests to being transferred to other parishes, Tobias said.

He said a committee composed of six members has been formed to study how the standardization can be implemented with "justice to everyone" in mind.

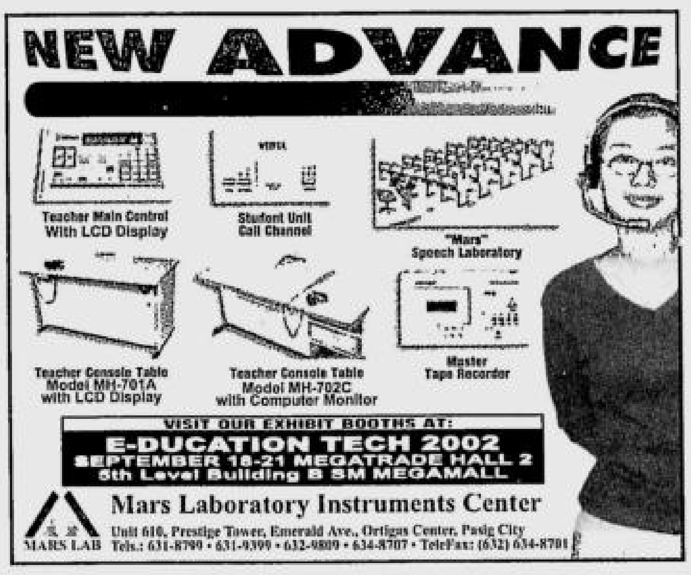
He also urged the clergy's cooperation in the reshuffle "in the spirit of renewal and give and take."

"I know I am asking a supreme sacrifice... but giving up and letting go has its own salutary benefits and is always a part of genuine renewal," Tobias said.

According to Fr. Noel Peter Lazo, a member of the committee, diocesan priests get their support solely from collections during Mass, "KBL - kasal (wedding), binyag (baptism) at libing (burial)" fees, and donations.

The total amount collected goes to the upkeep of the parish, including maintenance and repairs, and the "salary" of the priest.

"In the old practice, a priest assigned to a low-income parish would have less financial support compared to one assigned to a high-income parish. This would also be true after his retirement. This is why older priests usually prefer to be assigned to more prosperous parishes." Lazo said.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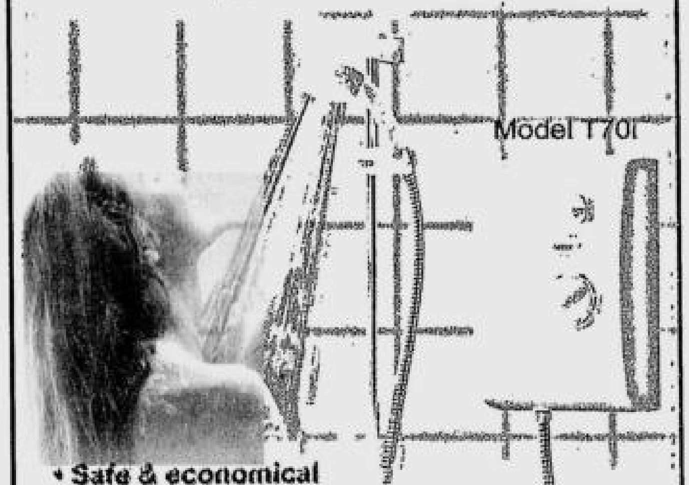
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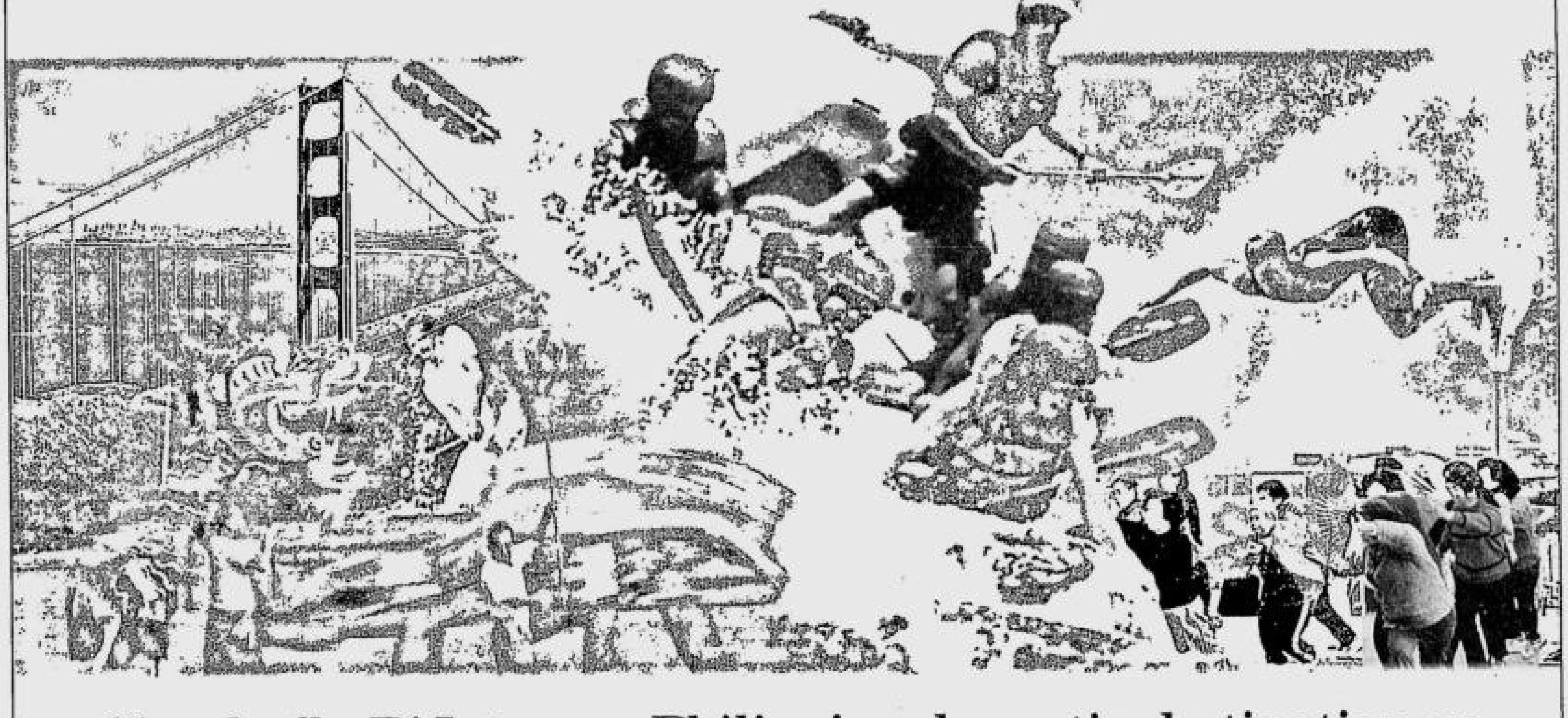
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# Cops reminded of 'support' role vs NPA

**By Alex V. Pal**
*PDI Visayas Bureau*

DUMAGUETE CITY—The Police Regional Office in Central Visayas (PRO-7) has reminded policemen to stick to a "support role" in fighting communist guerrillas and to take an active and aggressive role only in the absence of Army troops.

In a memorandum dated Aug. 30, Senior Supt. Ernesto Belen, acting Central Visayas police chief, said the apparent lack of coordination among responding government troops was the cause of the Aug. 27 encounter between Army soldiers and policemen in Barangay Basak, Guihulngan town, about 127 kilometers north of here.

Belen also reminded policemen to always be in proper combat uniform and to find means to locate missing companions in the event of an ambush.

He said there should be prior identification of armed men—whether friendly or enemy forces—before an operation is launched.

Senior Insp. Ramil Viscaya, Guihulngan police chief, and his men—SPO4 Modesto Lagusad and SPO4 Jaime Provechado—were killed after they were allegedly shot by soldiers from the Army's 66th Infantry Battalion who reportedly mistook them for New People's Army (NPA) rebels.

The policemen and the Army soldiers were responding to an earlier ambuscade by communist guerrillas in the same barangay, which killed Senior Insp. Leopito Gallego, police chief of nearby Vallehermoso town and his driver SPO3 Cipriano Saludes.

The policemen had coordinated with the Army within minutes of the ambush on the group of Vallehermoso police and agreed to proceed to the site together.

But the Guihulngan police took a dump truck and went to the ambush site without waiting for the Army troops. In haste, some policemen were not able to wear their uniforms.

In an interview, Belen said Viscaya might have had an urgent information that prompted him to pull out of the police station without waiting for the Army contingent.

"They had an arrangement already with the Army commander and yet he moved out after a few minutes. Why would he be prompted to move out when he already had an agreement with the Army when he asked for assistance?" he asked.

Initial investigation showed that the Guihulngan policemen were met with gunfire from armed men believed to belong to a blocking force of NPA rebels, forcing them to retreat to a mangrove area.

The Army troops, who arrived later, thought they were shooting at NPA rebels who tried to flee in a boat.

The mistaken encounter angle finally came up after an Armalite rifle recovered by Army soldiers from "fleeing NPA rebels" on the shores of Guihulngan, was later identified to be the rifle issued to SPO1 Raghuber Besario.

Besario was the lone survivor in the group of four policemen who were being showered with bullets from an M-60 machine gun by the Army soldiers.

DENNIS SABANGAN

**FIXTURE**
Soldiers carrying high-powered firearms have become a fixture in Patikul, Sulu, as familiar to residents as their neighborhood stores such as this one.

# C. de Oro mayor bares bribe try by firm

CAGAYAN DE ORO CITY—Mayor Vicente Emano told officials of a Manila-based construction firm to stop bribing him and other local officials in connection with infrastructure projects worth more than P600 million here.

Emano said Jeku Trading and Construction Inc. badly wants to corner the contract for the construction of the Upper Balulang-Taguanao Bridge project and various road networks that it does not mind giving huge pay-offs.

"That firm tried to bribe me when I was in Manila and I told them they can't buy me because I want a fair and transparent bidding. A bidding without maneuverings," Emano said in a radio interview.

Emano said Jeku's latest effort came in the form of a fax machine for the City General Services Office.

But Artemio Menor, Jeku business development consultant, denied that his company was bribing officials to bag the projects.

He said the fax machine was only lent to the CGSO to hasten communication between his company and the CGSO.

"It was not a bribe, we just wanted to have a smooth and unhampered communication with the CGSO, which unfortunately has a damaged fax machine," Menor said.

But Emano did not retract his statement against Jeku.

The controversy started after Monday's bidding for the projects.

Of the 24 construction firms, only two companies, including Jeku, have been prequalified.

The other firm was UKC Builders, which is based here.

When the bids were to be received Monday, the Public Bids and Awards Committee (PBAC) disqualified Jeku for failing to deposit a 10 percent bond.

Menor blamed the two-hour delay in the flight from Manila.

"We seem to get a harsh treatment from you (referring to the PBAC)," he told PBAC members. *Grace Cantal-Albasin, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

# Ex-militiaman killed in ambush

TAYABAS, Quezon—Four suspected New People's Army rebels clad in black sweatshirts and black bonnets shot to death a councilor of Barangay Valencia here Saturday morning.

Police identified the victim as Francisco Mabulay, 32, a former member of the paramilitary Citizen's Armed Forces Geographical Unit (Cafgu) operating in the area.

Investigation showed that the suspects shot him some 50 meters away from his house. The bullet wounds in different parts of his body caused his immediate death.

The armed men then entered the house and ordered the victim's wife, Evelyn, to produce Mabulay's firearm.

When she failed to produce anything, the suspects took a Nokia 3210 cellphone and warned in Filipino: "We will return."

They fired several shots in the air and shouted, "Mabuhay ang NPA (Long live the NPA)!" before they fled.

Meanwhile, the human rights group, Karapatan-Quezon, is in search for four farmers allegedly abducted by government soldiers in Barangay Buli, Atimonan, Quezon, two weeks ago.

Marilyn Quirrez, Karapatan-Quezon secretary general, said the military continued to deny that the farmers are in their custody.

"But the witnesses are all positive that government soldiers were the ones who forcibly seized the victims," she told the INQUIRER.

She said the abduction happened a day after a fierce encounter occurred between the military and NPA rebels, leaving behind a dead rebel and scores of wounded on both sides. *Delfin Mallari Jr., PDI Southern Luzon Bureau*

# MILF spokesman's brod tagged drug dealer

**By Aquiles Z. Zonio**
*PDI Mindanao Bureau*

GENERAL SANTOS CITY—Moro Islamic Liberation Front spokesperson Eid Kabalu's brother, Nasser, is one of the big-time suppliers of illegal drugs here, according to the acting chief of the Philippine Drug Enforcement Agency (PDEA) in Central Mindanao.

Nasser and his companions, Abdullah Duna and Datu Ali Ulamay, were arrested by the Sarangani police last week while visiting his detained nephew and niece at the Sarangani Provincial Police Office.

During the arrest, members of the Sarangani police allegedly seized several sachets of suspected methamphetamine hydrochloride or shabu from Duna and Ali.

Supt. Efren Alcuizar, acting PDEA-Central Mindanao chief, said they were able to confirm that Nasser and Ali alias Dats were involved in the illegal drug trade in the city. Nasser denied the accusations.

But Alcuizar insisted that Nasser was a "conduit" of a drug syndicate from Cotabato City that supplies shabu to Purok Taliban in the suburban village of Buayan here.

Taliban has gained notoriety here not only as a drop off point for drugs from other areas but as a favorite ground for drug pushers and users.

# Court employees protest salary hike

NAGA CITY—Rank-and-file court employees working at the Hall of Justice here wore black attires yesterday to protest their exclusion from a planned increase in salaries.

A female stenographer, who requested anonymity, claimed that Chief Justice Hilario Davide has announced the plan to increase the salaries of judges and court clerks all over the country but they were not included.

Another stenographer, who begged not to be identified for fear of reprisal, claimed the rank-and-file were restive because, she said, the Supreme Court planned double the salaries of judges and raise by 75 percent those of court clerks.

The employees were initially included in a plan to increase their salaries by 35 percent but it was scrapped, she added.

The stenographer claimed that the judges were receiving at least P24,000, excluding other benefits, and court clerks, at least P15,000.

The employee said only 17 percent of the 144 court employees here would benefit. *Juan Escandor Jr., PDI Southern Luzon Bureau*

# *Captured eagle moved to Davao*

BUTUAN CITY—The wild male Philippine eagle (*Pithecophaga jefferyi*) captured by a farmer in Barangay Anticala here on Tuesday was flown to its new home at the Philippine Eagle Foundation (PEF) in Malagos, Calinan District in Davao City.

In a simple ceremony at the residence of Archbishop Juan de Dios Pueblos of the Butuan Diocese here, Director Wilfredo Pollisco of the Protected Areas and Wildlife Bureau (PAWB) in Caraga turned over the two-year-old eagle to PEF officials.

"They can best take care of the eagle because we have no rescue center and the proper facilities to ensure its safety here," Pollisco said.

Earlier, DENR officials decided to release the eagle to its natural habitat on Sept. 18.

But PEF officials asked DENR officials for custody of the bird to protect it from possible dangers arising from a prolonged stay in an improper facility.

The eagle, with a wingspan of about 2.2 meters and weight of about 3.5 kilograms, was caught by Eddie Sumigao, a farmer from Barangay Anticala.

Sumigao said his attention was caught on Monday when his farm animals became restless.

Sumigao said he was appalled at the sight of a dead piglet, which was apparently devoured by an unknown attacker.

On Tuesday morning, Sumigao said he decided to lay down a trap, using another piglet as bait and managed to catch the culprit.

But he admitted he had no knowledge that the bird he caught was a Philippine eagle, a bird of prey.

Sumigao said even then, he decided to seek help from Bombo Radyo-Butuan, so he would know what to do with the "bird."

It was Ignacio Lumanao, Ecosystem Management Specialist of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) here, who confirmed that the trapped animal was indeed a Philippine eagle.

Lumanao declared that the bird was wild after he failed to find any tag on it.

Sumigao said he wanted compensation for his dead piglet. He was hoping that the government would give him a reward for capturing the eagle.

"We only give rewards to those who can point to us eaglets and eagles' nests," said Angelito Cereno, PEF program manager for conservation and education. *Ma. Kristina Cassion and Joselle d.R. Badilla, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

## ROUNDUP

### Alleged rapist slain

SORSOGON CITY—Four unidentified men believed to be New People's Army rebels shot dead on Tuesday an alleged rapist and informer in Sitio Bulabog, Barangay Dapdap, Pilar, Sorsogon. Police identified the victim as Meliton Certeza, 62, married, a farmer and resident of the same place. Details of the killing were not immediately known. Supt. Arne de los Santos, provincial police director, expressed outrage at the series of killings linked to the NPA in the province.
*Emir Gamis, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau*

### 2,050 get loans in Mindoro

CALAPAN CITY—Some 2,050 poor Mindoreños received loan checks amounting to P13.6 million for their livelihood projects in line with the poverty alleviation program of the government. The funds come from the Countrywide Assistance for Rural Employment and Services of President Macapagal-Arroyo (GMA-CARES). Marita Magpili-Jimenez, assistant secretary at the Office of the Presidential Adviser on Official Development Assistance, handed out the checks worth P2,000 to P15,000 each to individuals and groups of farmers, fishermen, workers and women in eight towns and a city of the province. The loan is payable in six months with 1.75-percent interest rate per month.
*Donna Virola, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau*

### Hot logs seized in Quezon

SAN PABLO CITY—The Department of Environment and Natural Resources seized about P3.5 million worth of illegally cut logs in separate operations in Quezon province last week. At least 3,636 flitches and 286 logs worth P3.4 million were confiscated by DENR authorities recently along the Agus River in Quezon. DENR provincial personnel, police and Coast Guard members of Mauban also apprehended a pump boat loaded with 34 pieces of narra flitches worth P38,340. Authorities have filed a criminal complaint against Rosing Bernardo, alleged owner of the boat. Garcia Osbal, alleged owner of the narra flitches; Marcos Plata, boat captain, and Jomar Plata, a helper, were held for violating the Forestry Code. The boat was placed in the custody of the police maritime group, while the forest products were deposited to the DENR Forest Station in Mauban.
*Romulo Ponte, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau*

### Newsman's killer hunted

SAN PABLO CITY—Laguna police and Criminal Investigation and Detection Group (CIDG) Region 4 agents have intensified their hunt for the suspect in the killing of community newspaper publisher and cable TV program host Sonny Alcantara in this city. Senior Supt. Medardo B. Apacible, Southern Tagalog police officer-in-charge, said a witness described the gunman as about 40 years old, medium-built, weighing about 140 pounds, about 5'5" in height with short semi-curly hair and a scar in his left forehead. Apacible said the motive for the killing has not been established.
*Romulo Ponte, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau*

### Illegal fishing

SORSOGON CITY—Anti-illegal fishing agents of the Bureau of Fish and Aquatic Resources, the city government and the city police caught in separate operations 26 fishermen while in the act of using compressors in the coastal waters of Barangays Bocalbocalan and Bitano, this city, in the past two weeks. The group also arrested two other fishermen for using explosives in the waters off Prieto Diaz, Sorsogon. Six boats were seized from the 26 fishermen. Sorsogon police arrested 205 fishermen since the start of this year. Thirty fishing boats were confiscated.
*Ronnie Lorejo, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau*

### Rabid dog kills farmer

LEGAZPI CITY—A farmer died after he was bitten by a rabid dog on Monday in Polangui, Albay. The dog also spread rabies to six members of the victim's family and a puppy that, in turn, bit four other persons. Police identified the fatality as Ernesto Banaga, 52, a farmer from Barangay Maynaga, Polangui. The puppy died shortly after biting three children and an adult, and was found positive for rabies. Provincial veterinarian Dr. Jose Losa said his office had not stopped reminding the public about preventing and avoiding rabies. He said it was now the responsibility of dog owners and people in the villages to prevent the spread of rabies.
*Ronnie Lorejo, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau*

### Bank pickets

LUCENA CITY—At least 15 victims of the so-called Metrobank scam have been picketing the bank premises here since last week. The victims said they had become tired of broken promises by bank officials that the depositors would soon get their money back. Members of the Special Weapons and Tactics Team from the local police were seen deployed to the area. Last month, Metrobank filed for "declaratory relief" before Regional Trial Court 141 in Makati City. The bank has also filed a case of qualified theft and falsification of commercial document against Mely Tadiosa, a former junior officer of the bank, and three unidentified men.
*Delfin Mallari Jr., PDI Southern Luzon Bureau*

### Doctors cleared

DUMAGUETE CITY—The Court of Appeals have cleared four doctors and the supply officer of the Negros Oriental Provincial Hospital. The five were accused of graft for operating a cooperative-owned pharmacy inside the hospital. The CA 10th division reversed a ruling in March of then Ombudsman Aniano Desierto suspending for six months doctors Teresito Orbeta, Wevina Fuentes, Felix Sy and Zenaida Jusep and supply officer Vincent Padayhag for violating the Code of Conduct and Ethical Standards for public officials. The CA said the Ombudsman's ruling that the co-op pharmacy competed with the NOPH pharmacy was a sweeping conclusion. "It is rather fair to conclude that the co-op botica compliments the NOPH pharmacy, rather then conclude that the former competes with the latter," the CA said
*Alex Pal, PDI Visayas Bureau*

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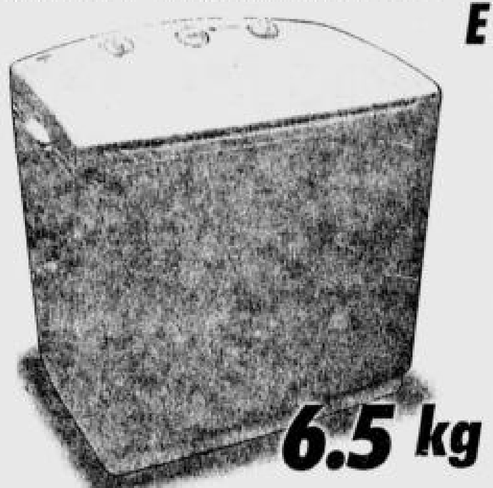

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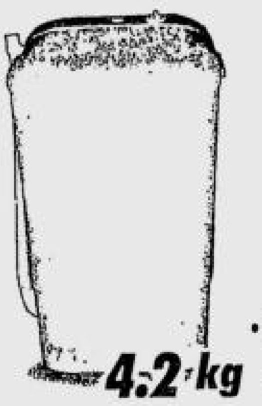

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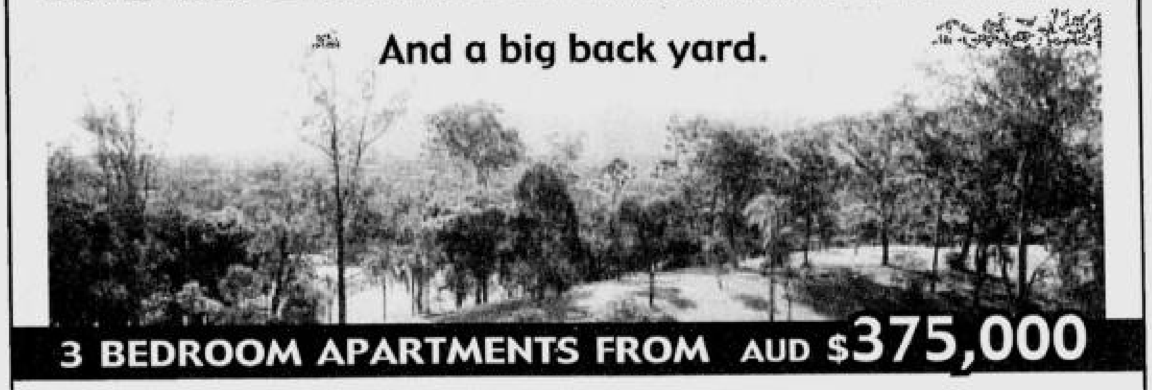

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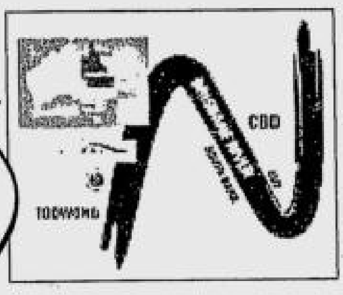

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# Guingona: No state of war, no use of air space

From page A1

The two were joined by four other members of the so-called Magnificent 12: Makati Rep. Agapito Aquino and former Senators Wigberto Tañada, Sotero Laurel and Victor Ziga.

Salonga, a top lawyer and the only Filipino to top three Senate elections, said the Constitution conferred the sole power to declare the existence of a state of war on the country's legislators.

"(The Constitution) does not empower them to declare a war, just to declare the existence of state of war by a vote of two-thirds of both houses in joint session assembled voting separately," he said.

Guingona said that even if the United Nations approved military action against Iraq, the country could not support the move unless approved by the Senate and the House of Representatives.

"We should not preempt the United Nations. We should wait for its resolution and look at the terms before acting," said Guingona, who resigned as foreign secretary in July because of policy differences with the President that stemmed from the participation of US troops in military exercises in certain areas in Mindanao.

Guingona said war jitters and the "possible escalation of war" in the Middle East could jack up prices of oil and basic commodities.

Officials have said 1.2 million to 1.5 million Filipinos work in the Middle East. At least 27,000 were evacuated during the Gulf War in 1991.

"The President has no power to commit us to the side of the US," Salonga said.

He noted that US President George W. Bush failed to convince the United Nations last week that Iraqi President Saddam Hussein had anything to do with the Sept. 11, 2001 terror attacks in the United States.

"Nor did he offer any proof that Saddam has supplied al-Qaida or other terrorist (organizations) with weapons of mass destruction," he said.

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ERIK ARAZAS

He said former South African President Nelson Mandela was right when he observed that the "US under George W. Bush is the real threat to international peace and the security of the whole world."

"(Ms Macapagal) will only alienate and enrage even the moderate Muslims in the Philippines," Salonga said.

Her support for the US war on Iraq would also expose overseas Filipino workers and Philippine embassies and consulates to attacks from extremists in the Middle East and Southeast Asia, particularly Indonesia, he said.

## UN action

But a leading member of Congress yesterday took up the cudgels for Malacañang.

Deputy Speaker Raul Gonzalez said the country would inevitably be drawn into any war against Iraq if the United Nations decided to take military action against Baghdad, pointing out that the Philippines was a member of the world body.

Gonzalez was reacting to an INQUIRER report the other day that quoted a Department of Foreign Affairs official as saying the UN Security Council's approval of a US-led resolution seeking military action against Iraq was not enough for the Philippines to get involved.

Gonzalez disagreed with this view, saying the Philippines must abide by its obligations with the United Nations.

He cited provisions in the charter of powers of the Security Council which states that the United Nations can call upon its members to take action against another country and the members should make available to the world body their armed forces, assistance and facilities, including rights of passage.

Gonzalez said the Philippines was not likely to send troops to Iraq, but "nonetheless we will be involved."

"This country does not want war and prays for peace, but if war is inevitable and the UN supports it, we must abide by its treaty obligations," he said in a statement.

## Cimatu's task

The country's point men in the coming crisis—the ambassadors in the Middle East—are scheduled to meet tomorrow with Crisis Management Committee chair Roy Cimatu in the United Arab Emirates to discuss the situation in their posts.

Cimatu said the ambassadors were expected to discuss the possible evacuation of Filipinos in the area. He could not yet say who among the envoys would attend.

"We still have to finalize the details," Cimatu said after the meeting of the inter-agency committee tasked with tackling the problem of security and safety of Filipinos in the Middle East.

Cimatu said his team would make the rounds of countries that may be affected by a US attack. After Dubai, his next stop would be Amman, Jordan, which is being proposed as exit point for the Filipino evacuees in the region.

Eight Filipino evacuees from Iraq are already in the Philippine Embassy in Amman. Previous reports listed 10 evacuees, but the two others had returned to Iraq.

"They turned out to be staff members who facilitated the evacuation of the dependents," said a DFA official.

Of the 12 contract workers in Iraq, seven of them have already expressed their intention to stay put.

## Street protest

About 300 people marched to the US Embassy to protest what they said was the President's "unabashed" support for a US-led attack on Iraq.

Waving steamers that said "No to invasion of Iraq," they rallied briefly in front of the embassy after pushing aside police who tried to block their way.

The protesters wanted to send the message to the American people that Filipinos would oppose war on Iraq, saying such a move would be "a classic case of American bullying," said Teodoro Casiño, secretary general of the Bagong Alyansang Makabayan (Bayan), one of the groups at the rally.

"The Macapagal regime's unabashed puppetry to the US government is a mockery of the Senate's courageous and principled stand 11 years ago," Casiño added.

"Today, 11 years after the historic Senate decision to abrogate the bases treaty, Ms Macapagal is slowly but surely bringing us back to the pre-Sept. 16, 1991 era of US military bases and blatant US intervention in Philippine affairs," Casiño maintained.

"Secretary Ignacio Bunye's clarification that Malacañang will not support the US war on Iraq is hogwash. Her decision to evacuate Filipinos in Iraq sends a louder message, and it tells George Bush that he can bomb the hell out of Iraq as long as the Filipinos are out of the way," he said.

Bayan spokesperson Renato Reyes warned that the President's support for a US-led war on Iraq "may be setting the tone for the real intent of the next round of Balikatan war games in October."

Dr. Giovanni Tapang, president of the scientists' group Agham, called the US a "hypocrite" for claiming to be going after Iraq's weapons-making capability.

Tapang, a physics professor from the University of the Philippines, said it was the United States that was the "biggest and most profiteering maker and user of nuclear, chemical, biological and conventional weapons" around the world. *With reports from Christine Avendaño, Agnes E. Donato, Norman Bordadora, AFP and AP*

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# Magnificent 12 affirm decision to scrap bases

From page A1

when it was under the Americans, according to Felicito Payumo, chair of the Subic Bay Metropolitan Authority (SBMA).

These companies have exported $6.1 billion worth of products and are estimated to export $1.4 billion worth of goods this year. Payumo said SBMA had remitted P3.57 billion in duties and taxes to the national government.

"Clearly, we now say, you decided correctly," Payumo, a three-term Bataan representative belonging to the Liberal Party, said in his welcome remarks.

He spoke of military quarters and barracks turned into hotels and dormitories, of jungle training and magazine sites turned into eco-tourism attractions, and of the Alava Pier where aircraft carriers and destroyers used to dock turned into cargo liners' unloading and loading area.

"But lest we think we did all these by our lonesome, nothing is farther from the truth. The United States, along with other countries, has been our supportive partner," the SBMA chief said. He said that without the airports and ports, there would be no FedEx, UPS, APL or Maersk. And without the logistics support, there would be no Acer, Omron, Sankyu Seiki and Sanyo Denkis—the major investors in Subic.

## American guest

Expecting anti-US bases rhetoric to dominate yesterday's four-hour program, Payumo managed to include an American to speak alongside the members of the Magnificent 12 as a "grateful note to our partner in development."

Robert Fisher, Federal Express chief pilot for the Asia-Pacific and former US Navy man, spoke about the Philippines and the United States as "brothers in arms, friends and comrades."

Salonga said the removal of the bases earned for the Philippines the respect of its Asian neighbors and western countries, including the United States.

Even Filipinos "felt and believed that the Senate was right in rejecting the bases treaty." Salonga said a poll conducted by Social Weather Stations (SWS) three years ago showed that "almost 80 percent of our people had reversed their stand."

He said he had no regrets in voting against the treaty. What he had, he added, was pity for Sen. John Osmeña and "his like-minded critics who could no longer recognize between truth and error."

While he paid dearly for it—Salonga was defeated in the 1992 presidential elections amid popular sentiments favoring the retention of bases—he considered the loss an "insignificant consequence."

"In times of great crisis, our martyrs and heroes offered their lives that our people may become truly free. *Anong kwenta ng puwesto kung ito ay ihahambing natin sa halaga ng buhay* (What value does a position hold compared with the value of life)?" he said.

For his part, Guingona said he would be consistent with his 1991 decision. "I will always rise to defend the honor of the Filipinos."

Laurel said he only had the 1987 Constitution to defend. The present generation, he said, "must make a sense of the historic decision and uphold the Constitution."

Aquino cited national sovereignty as the sole basis of his vote. "It is the heart of the matter," he said. Ziga called the treaty a "unilateral imposition" by a strong state over a small country.

## Other pacts

Tañada said he was concerned about the Visiting Forces Agreement (VFA) and the proposed Mutual Logistics Support Arrangement (MLSA). The VFA, ratified in 1999 by the Senate in support of the 51-year-old Mutual Defense Treaty, allows the resumption of joint war games and visits of US troops.

Tañada warned that the MLSA would restore the presence of US military in the Philippines.

Sonia Soto, spokesperson of the Pagkakaisa ng Kababaihan para sa Inang Bayan, said President Macapagal-Arroyo, by siding with the United States, traded the people's hard-earned victory in 1991 with the VFA and MLSA.

Soto assailed the President for her supposed "ignorance of the historical lessons of the past."

In Baguio City, activists reminded the government of the opportunity that it wasted in the struggle for Philippine sovereignty.

"The historic Senate vote was a shining moment, but the present administration squandered our opportunity to struggle for sovereignty," said Voltaire Tupaz, secretary general of the Tongtongan Ti Umili.

At the US Embassy in Manila, Bayan Muna Rep. Satur Ocampo said the 1991 decision of the Senate to kick out the US military bases in the country was incomplete.

"Although it was historic, what happened on Sept. 11, 1991 was not enough. We forgot something," Ocampo told militants who commemorated the Senate vote with a rally in front of the US Embassy.

He said the Philippines should also abrogate the country's mutual defense treaty and other military assistance agreements with the United States so that the country would not be dragged into wars involving Americans.

Although the American military bases are gone, these remaining treaties help ensure the continued subservience of the country to the United States, according to Ocampo.

## Iloilo protest

In Iloilo City, around 200 students led by the League of Filipino Students and the Anakbayan held a picket to mark the 11th anniversary of the abrogation of the US-RP Military Bases Agreement.

The protesters carried placards and streamers during a rally at the Plazoleta Gay before holding a torch march along Bonifacio Drive. They later burned a US flag.

The protesters scored the Macapagal administration for allowing the entry of American troops and armaments in the country despite the abrogation of the treaty in 1991.

"The (Macapagal) regime has insulted the historic decision of the 1991 Senate and the Filipino people by kowtowing to the US plan to transform the country into a gigantic military base," said Ric Juntarciego, spokesperson of Anakbayan in Iloilo.

Juntarciego said that "under the pretext of fighting terrorism," the government had allowed the largest deployment of foreign troops in the country since the closure of Clark Air Base and Subic Naval Base. *With reports from Tonette Orejas, Allan Macatuno and Cesar Villa, PDI Central Luzon Desk; Desiree Caluza, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau; Philip C. Tubeza in Manila and Nestor P. Burgos Jr., PDI Visayas Bureau*

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# Iraq war jitters plunge peso to P52.44

From page A1

ments," Roland Avante, treasury chief of Chinatrust Philippines, said.

Traders said the peso's depreciation was also due to the weakening of the yen .

Buenaventura ruled out the possibility of tapping foreign exchange swaps arrangements. The government has signed a $3-billion forex swap agreement with Japan and expects to sign $1 billion each in similar agreements with China and South Korea. The money can be used to support the country's foreign exchange rate.

Buenaventura said projections that the peso could appreciate to around 50 to the dollar by the end of the year were still "doable" despite concerns over the budget deficit and fears of a US strike against Iraq.

Camacho said he agreed with Buenaventura's comments that the weakness of the peso was temporary.

"I'm confident that eventually, when this issue gets flushed out by the market, it will restore the value of the peso," he said. *Reports from Elena R. Torrijos and Reuters*

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# 2 terrorist suspects trained in MILF camp

From page A1

The Singapore government said a few others trained at the MILF's Camp Abubakar in Maguindanao in Mindanao. Based on information obtained by the United States from al-Qaida's senior respresentative in Southeast Asia, Omar al-Faruq, al-Qaida set up a terrorist training camp in Abubakar, the CNN reported last night.

Based on Faruq's interrogation, the United States says it believes Southeast Asia now has the world's highest concentration of al-Qaida operatives outside of Afghanistan and Pakistan, CNN also reported.

Faruq, who was arrested in Indonesia last June, and is now in US custody in Afghanistan, lived in Abubakar in 1995.

The former MILF headquarters, Abubakar was seized and occupied by Philippine troops during the Estrada administration in 1999. The Macapagal administration now plans to turn Abubakar into a rehabilitation and development center for resident civilians displaced by the military offensives.

## Arrests last month

The arrests were made last month, the Singapore's home ministry said in a statement which gave no reason for the delay in making the news public.

The ministry said the latest arrests have "seriously disrupted" the JI network in Singapore and "there is no known imminent security threat from other JI elements." Thirteen JI members were arrested last December, accused of plotting to blow up US and other Western targets in the city-state.

Singapore, which is a longtime ally of Washington, hosts a US Navy logistics base.

"As a result of the continuing investigation on the Jemaah Islamiyah network, the Internal Security Department has arrested another 21 persons in August ... for involvement in terrorism-related activities," the statement said.

"Several have conducted reconnaissance and surveys of selected targets in Singapore on the instruction of their JI leaders, most of whom are among those arrested earlier in December 2001."

All 34 arrested terrorist suspects are being held under Singapore's tough Internal Security Act (ISA) which allows for detention without trial.

A report on the original 13 arrested said they had all admitted engaging in "terrorism-related" activity and were tied to a plot that would have had catastrophic consequences if they had pulled it off.

Their plans included buying 17 tons of ammonium nitrate to make seven massive truck bombs.

A video tape of likely bombing targets in Singapore was found in the Afghanistan home of Mohammed Atef, the military adviser of Osama bin Laden's al-Qaida network, who was reportedly killed when his house was bombed by US forces last November.

The home affairs ministry has said the JI's Singapore leader, Ibrahim Maidin, has admitted that "innocent Singaporeans would be killed, just as innocent Muslims were killed when the US bombed Afghanistan and al-Qaida members."

The Singapore government believes several JI members fled the tiny city-state last December when the 13 arrests were made.

They included a militant who had been planning to hijack a commercial jetliner and crash it into Singapore's Changi airport.

## Brains arrested in RP

Two others—Jabarah Mohammad Mansour, who was later arrested in Oman, and Fathur Rohman al-Ghozi who was arrested in the Philippines—are said to be the brains behind the operation and had intended bringing in suicide bombers from overseas.

According to the ministry, the local JI members would help with surveillance and identifying targets and would leave Singapore a few days before the planned attacks.

Days before the anniversary of the Sept. 11 attacks, Defense Minister Tony Tan said the threat of a terrorist strike in Singapore remained very real. AFP

# Coseteng wraps up race plum

ROSARIO, Batangas—It's in the bag for Caltex Havoline-Autoplus-Red Horse lead driver Jody Coseteng.

Coseteng made a big comeback, sweeping Rounds 9 and 10 to virtually assure himself of the Philippine National Touring Car Championship plum last Sunday at the Batangas Racing Circuit.

The event was sponsored by the Batangas Racing Circuit Association (BRCA) Board of Governors, Pilipinas Shell, Toyota Motors Phil., Casino Filipino, MOF Shipping, Norkis-Yamaha, Marlboro and Kilton Motors Corporation.

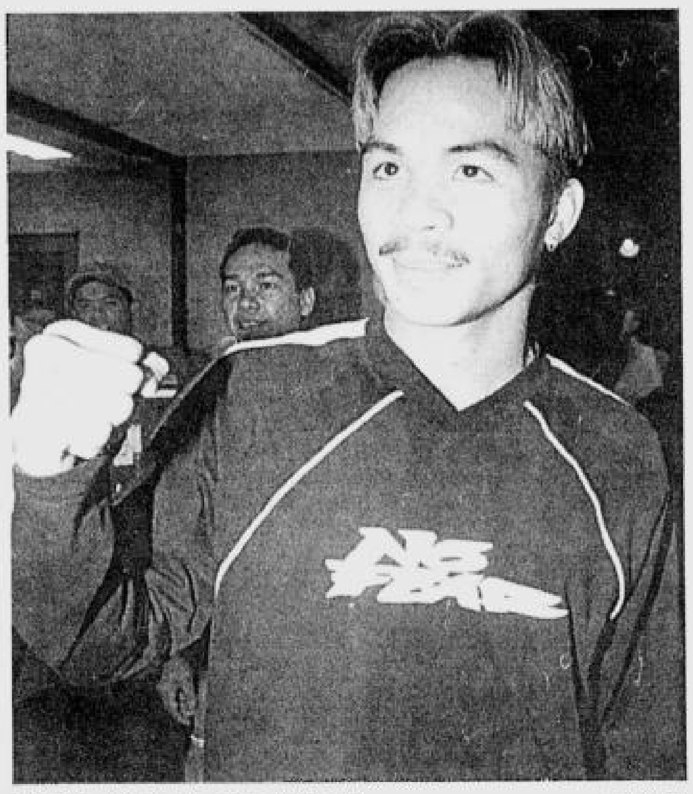
"This sweep more than made up for the past four setbacks," said Coseteng who tried to keep his usual composed self but his smile just couldn't hide his joy.

"This victory is probably the most colorful in my racing career. The team was haunted by unexpected turn of events but fortunately, the season concluded on a happy ending. I thank my sponsors for their continuous support and trust," Coseteng said.

With the win, Coseteng now amassed a total of 132 points in this event sanctioned by the Automobile Association of the Philippines (AAP).

### TITLE DEFENSE

# Pacquiao fight ticket costs ₱50T



PACQUIAO: Making ticket history. FILE PHOTO

**By Rey Danseco**
*Contributor*

**MANNY Pacquaio has become a megabuck boxer.**

That is, in terms of ticket prices to the champion's forthcoming defense of his crown on Oct. 26 against Fahprakorb Rakkiatgym in Davao City.

A ringside ticket costs P50,000 at the Rizal Memorial College Gym, the most expensive ever in ring history hereabouts.

Promoter Soc Piñol said other tickets cost P25,000 each.

Piñol, the youngest brother of North Cotabato Gov. Manny Piñol, said 100 seats are allotted at ringside, 200 at back row worth P25,000 each, and the rest at P1,000 each.

Piñol, however, said that the local government of Davao City had promised to install a wide screen near the venue, courtesy of Mayor Rodrigo Duterte to provide Davaoeños a chance to watch the Pacquiao fight.

The event has a projected budget of P15 million.

The Philippine Amusement and Gaming Corporation and the Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office have already committed P5 million each while San Miguel Beer is said to dole out P8 million.

Piñol said they are planning to beam the fight to Thailand and 11 cities in the United States. NBN-4 will air the fight nationwide.

Meanwhile, Sydney Olympian Danilo Lerio is set to make his second fight as a professional in a six-round junior flyweight clash against American-Mexican Nene Fairtex of Fairtex and Muay Thai gym in Daly City.

Another side event features Pacquiao's younger brother Bobby, who will stake his RP super featherweight title against Rex Marzan in a 10-round confrontation.

# Bata, Django meet Deuel, Immonen in Subic Masters

REYES

BUSTAMANTE

FILIPINO aces Efren "Bata" Reyes and Francisco "Django" Bustamante try to assert their superiority over Mika Immonen and Corey Deuel, respectively, today when the Cafe Puro Challenge of the Masters opens at the Subic Bay Yacht Club.

Reyes beat Immonen, the 2001 world pool champion, in the recent Challenge of Champions in Connecticut while Bustamante downed Deuel, the US Open titlist, in the World 9-Ball Challenge finals in Manila.

"This is payback time," chorused Immonen and Deuel. "We are both playing well and hope to erase the memory of our last visit," said the duo, referring to the World 9-Ball Challenge where Immonen failed to land in the semis.

Immonen is determined to clinch the $50,000 winner-take-all tournament, Immonen arrived last week to "get the feel of the conditions and to practice with many of the great pool players in the Philippines."

He thanked Subic Bay Metropolitan Authority Chairman Felicito Payumo for hosting the four-day event.

"Subic is a wonderful place with very friendly people. I'm going to enjoy my stay here," Immonen said.

The Bustamante-Deuel and Reyes-Immonen matches, both best-of-three sets affair, will be telecast over Viva Vintage Sports-IBC 13 starting at 6 p.m.

# Derby for stagfighter of the year resumes today

THE BATTLE for Ucap's prestigious Stagfighter of the Year award resumes today with the staging of the 2nd Ucap Arnis Master 7-Stag Derby, with popular sportsman Raymond Velayo as host. Derby sponsors are Sagupaan Complexor 3000, Sagupaan Mite Free, Pagcor and Washout Shampoo from Lakpue Drug Inc.

Dr. A. Tuazon of Pateros (AUT Game Farm) is the surprise early leader with six points, trailed by engineer Sonny Lagon and Mayor Joel Brillantes (Blue Blade JBB), Maj. Bobby Doromal (Nong Bob) and Louie Cua (LCC Oct. 22 and 24) who have 5.5 points each.

But expected to make their moves today to shake up the standing are *sabong* idol Patrick Antonio, former Ucap president Butch Macasaet, Mauro Prieto of Palawan, Mario Villamor, Tito Reyes, Patrick Puno, Alan Tan, Biboy Enriquez, Blandy Tolentino, Pol Estrellado, OPMI president Vic Yu, Alex Tang, Gerry Ramos of Las Piñas and Eric dela Rosa of Pasay.

Six Ucap-sponsored stagfests will be the basis in selecting the "Stagfighter" winner. The winner will be known on Oct. 22 and Oct. 24 during the LCC 7-Stag Derby.

Meanwhile, Mandaluyong Coliseum will also present the "Concierto Sa Mandaluyong" 5-Stag Derby on Sept. 24.

## *FEU outlasts NU, nears UAAP sweep*

FAR Eastern University disposed of National University with relative ease, 25-11, 25-16, 25-13, Sunday and is now poised to sweep the eliminations and retain the women's volleyball crown outright in the 65th University Athletic Association of the Philippines (UAAP). The Lady Tamaraws, are unbeaten in 13 games.

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# Arroyo to join RP Team to Busan

By Marc Anthony Reyes

**TEAM Philippines will have yet another fan rooting for it in the Asian Games sidelines: First Gentleman Mike Arroyo.**

Philippine Sports Commission chair Eric Buhain yesterday confirmed that Arroyo will fly to Busan to support the 218 athletes seeing action in 31 disciplines of the Asiad which begins Sept. 29.

Arroyo will be representing President Macapagal-Arroyo upon the invitation of the South Korea foreign affairs department, according to Buhain.

"I heard the news only this morning and it is really a welcome development for Team Philippines," Buhain told the INQUIRER. "His (Arroyo's) presence will give us more reason to give it our best shot because we know that the Philippine government is behind us all the way."

ARROYO

The Philippines' participation in the 14th Asiad has gained big support not only from the government but also from the private sector.

Most notable of them is Samsung Philippines which pledged to shoulder the travel and hotel expenses of 35 varsity cheerleaders, whose main task is to boost the Filipino athletes' morale during competition.

Buhain added that Ms Arroyo is also planning to send off the Philippine delegation although Palace officials are still trying to fit it into the President's hectic schedule. The first batch of athletes departing for Busan leaves on the 23rd, the PSC chief added.

He also said the Busan-bound athletes are scheduled to gather one more time on Sept. 22 at the Quirino Granstand to watch the culmination of the nationwide Asian Games torch run which began in Mindanao and is now passing through Visayas and Luzon.

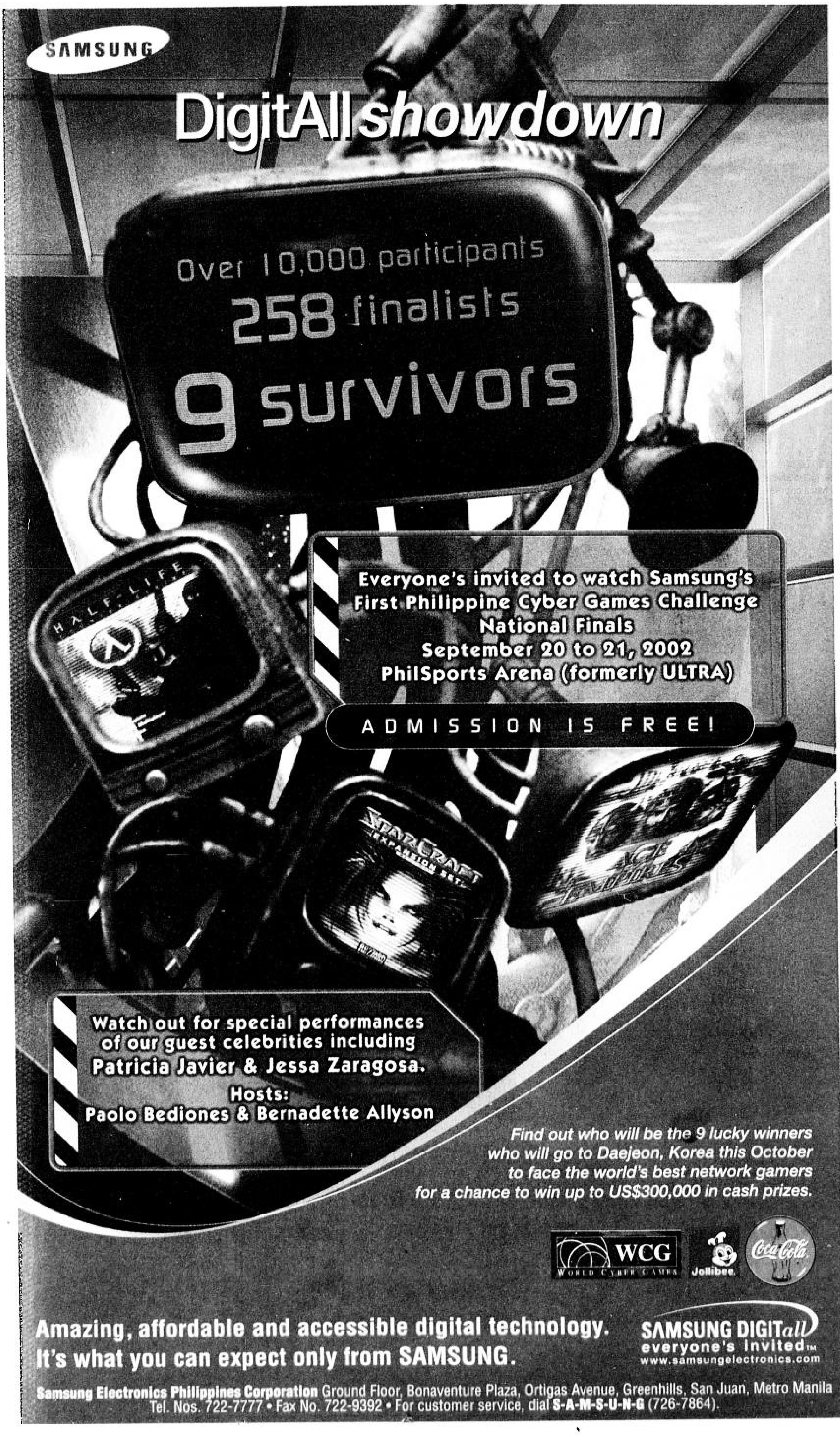
Buhain is currently in Puerto Princesa, Palawan, to make an inspection of the province's sports complex in connection with its bid to host the Batang Pinoy in December.

Buhain said Palawan is among the top contenders to host the 12-and-under multi-event although it faces tough competition from Lanao del Norte and Naga City.

## *Pioneer insures national athletes*

THE PHILIPPINE Olympic Committee has renewed its appointment of Pioneer Insurance as the official insurer of national athletes. Under this agreement, Pioneer Insurance provides free year-round personal accident coverage to all national athletes, coaches, trainers and their assistants with an aggregate limit of P15 million.

Delegates to the Busan Asian Games will benefit from this coverage. The contract for the appointment was signed by POC secretary general Romeo Ribaño, Pioneer Insurance chair Ernesto O. Chan, POC president Celso Dayrit and Pioneer Insurance VP for Sales and Intermediary Development Mariciris Zapata.



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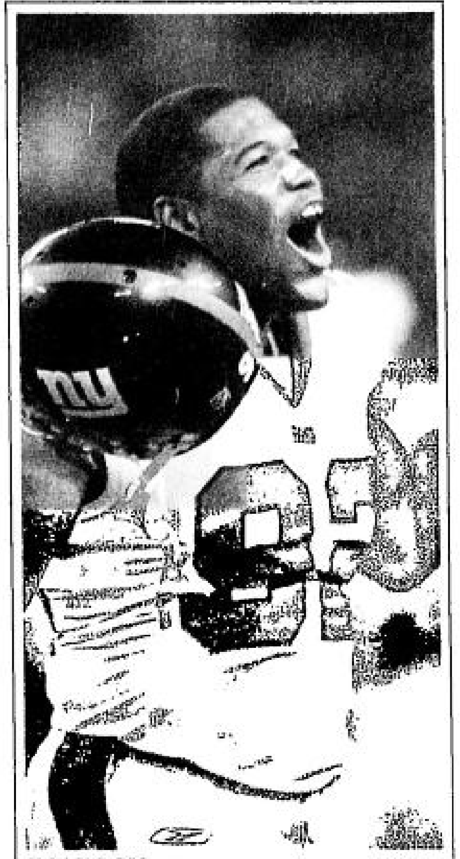

**ECSTACY**
**New York Giants' Michael Strahan celebrates his team's 26-21 win over the St. Louis Rams yesterday at the Edward Jones Dome in St. Louis, Missouri.** AFP

# Army, Kaya booters win, dispute title

DEFENDING champion Army and Kaya Football Club held off their respective rivals last Sunday to arrange a showdown for the 2nd Army-Utilco International Invitational Football Crup crown at the Ascom field in Fort Bonifacio.

Richmond Braga struck twice in the 47th and 56th minutes as the Armymen toppled San Beda, 2-0, while Peter Amores knocked in a goal in the 68th minute as Kaya nipped University of the Philippines, 1-0, in First Division matches.

Army B banked on a golden goal by Randy Sasisad in the extension period to edge DLSU, 3-2, and also advance to the Second Division finals against El Magistrado, 3-2 winner over Far Eastern University.

The third-place and final matches will be held on Sunday, Sept. 22, at Ascom field. It will be FEU against DLSU at 8 a.m. and UP against San Beda at 10 for third spots in the second and first divisions, respectively.

The Army B-El Magistrado match is set at 1 p.m. while the Army-Kaya contest will be played at 3 o' clock.

FEU's Kristin Kirk Magbalon broke the ice in the seventh minute but El Magistrado's Rolen Dean leveled the count in the 21st. Then El Magistrado's James Rafols delivered what turned out to be the winning marker in the 68th.

After David Kim gave DLSU a 1-0 lead in the 25th, Army B's Judy Saluria and Gener Rower struck in succession to make it 2-1. But Kim came to DLSU's rescue once more in the 57th to know the count.

# Negros triumphs as Villiran shines

BACOLOD CITY—Host Negros Occidental leaned on the hat-trick of Reydrick Villiran to crush Dipolog, 8-0, Sunday at the start of the national men's football championship at the Pana-ad Stadium here.

Villiran struck in the 10th, 22nd and 31st minutes to propel the hosts to the lopsided triumph.

Other Negros Occidental scorers were Elvin Marcellana (55th and 62nd minutes), Khey Salazar (53rd), Jason Costanilla (70th) and Jose Mari Gabalfin (75th).

Powerhouse NCR-Air Force led the other opening-day winners Sunday in the tourney organized by the Philippine Football Federation and supported by the Philippine Sports Commission and Congressmen Monico Puentevella and Charlie Cojuangco, who is also the Nofa (Negros Occidental Football Association) president.

The NCR-PAF booters blasted Rizal province, 10-0.

In other matches, Iloilo beat Cagayan de Oro-WG&A/Samsung, 3-1; Negros Oriental topped Davao, 3-1; Cebu and Masbate won over Baguio and Iligan, respectively, both by default.

Negros Occidental Vice Gov. Isidro P. Zayco, Mayor Luzviminda S. Valdez, Congressmen Puentevella and Genaro Alvarez, PSC Chair Eric Buhain and PFF president Rene Z. Adad graced the opening ceremony.

# Lim takes plum

THIRD seed Arithmetico Lim of Chiang Kai Shek High pocketed the boys' 16-under title when top seed Jandrick de Castro of La Salle-Greenhills suffered leg cramps yesterday in the Philta Classic 5 age-group tournament at the Rizal Memorial Tennis Center. De Castro took the first set, 6-4, and was leading at 5-4 in the second set when leg cramps struck. He decided to quit after Lim tied the count at 5-5.

## ZARATE SHOO-IN

# Miñoza out of World Cup team again

MIÑOZA: Hectic Japan Tour schedule. FILE PHOTO

By Jong Arcano

**FRANKIE Miñoza is not available for the country's World Cup team again. And so is young gun Gerald Rosales.**

Citing another conflict with his schedule in the Japan Tour, Miñoza had already informed the Professional Golfers Association of the Philippines of his unavailability for the qualifying tilt next month in Malaysia.

With Miñoza and wedding-bound Rosales begging off, PGAP president Jun Bustamante said that they are left with Danny Zarate–the best-performing Filipino in the Asian Tour this season–and either Mars Pucay or Cassius Casas as his backup.

The PGAP has been given until Thursday, Sept. 19, to submit the Philippine entries for the qualifying set Oct. 10-13 at the Palm Resort Golf and Country Club in Johore, Malaysia.

While Zarate is a shoo-in for the first slot, Bustamante said that they will have to choose between Pucay and Casas for the other berth based on the stipulated eligibility rules which put weight on world and Asian Tour rankings.

Pucay is currently ahead of Casas in the Asian Tour money list. Rosales is actually next to Zarate in the rankings but the former Philippine Open champ would not be available just in case the RP team makes it to the finals since he's getting married in December. The World Cup proper will be held on Dec. 12-15 at the Vista Vallarta in Puerto Vallarta, Mexico.

Zarate teamed up with Rodrigo Cuello to finish third in last year's qualifying that gave them a ticket to the World Cup proper in Gotemba, Japan, last year.

The South African tandem of Ernie Els and Goosen won the Japan World Cup after a thrilling four-team playoff with the US pairing of Tiger Woods and David Duval, Denmark and New Zealand.

"We were really hoping to get Frankie into the team but apparently, he's got big commitments in Japan next month," Bustamante told the INQUIRER.

The last time Frankie played in the World Cup was in the 1995 edition in Shenzhen, China where he teamed up with Robert Pactolerin.

# Fil-Am golf set Dec. 2-7

PREPARATIONS are going on smoothly for the Fil-Am Golf Invitational, the world's largest and oldest amateur tournament, slated Dec. 2-7 at the scenic courses of Camp John Hay and Baguio Country Club.

This 53rd edition of the annual, by invitation event, has Smart Communications as presenter and College Assurance Plan and Northwest Airlines as major sponsors. Ubix Corp. is a minor sponsor.

A maximum list of 60 teams is envisioned by tournament co-chairs Anthony De Leon and Heiner Maulbecker to ensure a smooth handling of the tournament which has been hampered by delayed rounds in the past.

"With some innovations and changes this year, we hope to mirror, if not outshine, the splendor and success of last year's tournament," said De Leon and Maulbecker.

There will be team and individual competitions. In the team event, the stronger squads vie for the FIL Division championship. The other teams will battle it out in the AM Division.

In the individual event for both divisions, the players will be classified into different classes (A, B, C, D, E, F) based on their handicaps. Those with the lowest handicaps compete in Flight A.

Information Professionals Inc. (IPI) has been tapped to do the computerized scoring for the tournament.

# Tenorio playing versus UE

By Dennis U. Eroa

PLAYMAKER LA Tenorio, Ateneo's most prominent cheerleader on the bench, will see action on Thursday Final Four as the Eagles try to hurdle the twice-to-beat advantage by the University of the East Warriors at the Araneta Coliseum.

Tenorio, who electrified the crowd during last year's best-of-three final against champion La Salle, missed Ateneo's last five games due a fractured right hand he suffered in practice.

"We need LA in the playoffs," said Ateneo coach Joel Banal. Without the 5-foot-8 Tenorio, the Eagles, with muscular pointguard Cris Quimpo, went 5-0.

Ateneo meets UE at 4 p.m. tomorrow, after the 2 p.m. curtain-raiser between eliminations leader La Salle and University of Santo Tomas. La Salle also enjoys a twice-to-beat advantage over UST.

But Banal and his coaching staff know the importance of Tenorio to the team as it battles UE, whose main weapon aside from the sweet-shooting James Yap is a deadly run and gun game.

Banal said Ateneo remains the underdog against UE, which beat them twice in the eliminations. "The Warriors are hungry to make the finals," Banal said.

UE mentor Boysie Zamar said the Final Four is an entirely different story.

"Our two wins in the elims will no longer matter. What will matter is endurance and fighting heart. We're doing minor adjustments against Ateneo," said Zamar, who played the point during UE's 1985 UAAP triumph.

# Tatap age group tourney Sept. 21

THE TABLE Tennis Association of the Philippines will hold the Tatap National Age Group Tournament starting on Sept. 21 at the Rizal Memorial Coliseum.

Victor Valbuena, Tatap president, said the Tatap ID system will be launched on the same day. It is designed to legitimize the membership for each club member, disseminate information and analyze the ranking system at the end of the year.

The two-day national age group tournament will stake medals and products of Butterfly Philippines.

# Barrichello prevails in Italy; Montoya drops out

MONZA, Italy — After setting the fastest lap in Formula One history in Saturday's qualifying, Juan Pablo Montoya had been looking forward to a sensational repeat of his Italian GP victory at Monza last year.

A poor start from the pole position dropped him behind. Then a broken suspension ended a race dominated by Ferrari drivers Rubens Barrichello and Michael Schumacher.

"It's a shame I had a problem which forced me to retire because I still could have finished third," the Colombian driver of the Williams BMW said.

He explained that his problems at the start, when he slipped behind teammate Ralf Schumacher, were due to an almost stalled engine.

"In any case, over the race distance we are still underperforming compared to Ferrari," Montoya said.

Meanwhile, Alex Yoong battled understeering and a long pit stop to settle an electronic problem as he finished 13th and last in the Italian GP, six laps behind Ferrari's Brazilian winner Barrichello.

The Malaysian driver of the Minardi Asiatech team had mixed feelings about his result.

"I could have done much better without the electronic problem, but when it was fixed I could rush back to the track and push hard until I got the checkered flag," Yoong said.

## SPORTSWATCH

### Sorenstam wins; Delasin 41st

PORTLAND, Oregon—Annika Sorenstam won her eighth LPGA Tour title of the year Sunday, closing with a 4-under 68 to hold off Kate Golden by a stroke in the Safeway Classic. The Swedish star has 10 worldwide victories this year, winning three straight events entering the Solheim Cup matches between Europe and the United States in Minnesota. Sorenstam earned $150,000 for her 39th LPGA Tour victory to break her own single-season tour record with $2,211,991 in 17 events. Sorenstam, who had a course-record 10-under 62 on Saturday, finished with a 17-under 199 total at the Columbia Edgewater Country Club. Golden shot a bogey-free 65. Dorothy Joy Delasin landed in 41st place after a lackluster even-par 72 that ended her year-to-year winning streak in the regular season of the LPGA Tour. Delasin, who will defend the post-season Samsung World Championship in Vallejo, California in two weeks time, finished with a 214 aggregate worth a measly $4,525. The Samsung field is expected to include Filipino Jenny Rosales. *AP*

### Kuerten rules Brazil Open

COSTA DO SAUIPE, Brazil—Gustavo Kuerten won his first Brazil Open title Sunday, fighting hard in scorching sunshine to beat Argentina's Guillermo Coria 6-7 (4), 7-5, 7-6 (2). It is the first victory of 2002 for the former world No. 1, and the first since undergoing hip surgery in February. "I think there is nothing better than this achievement to motivate and realize dreams, to win here in Brazil," said Kuerten, a three-time French Open champion. "Here, in this heat, to lose (the first set), to save match point. If you wanted to write a more dramatic novel you couldn't. I fought like hell." The win will likely push Kuerten back into the top 40 of the ATP rankings. *AP*

### US volleybelles bow to Italians

BERLIN—Even as an outsider and without its star setter, the United States managed to reach the final of the women's Volleyball World Championships. But losing top scorer Prikeba Phipps ahead of the gold-medal match proved just a little too much. Undefeated throughout the tournament, the Americans were finally stopped in their tracks by underdog Italy in a thrilling five-set final Sunday, which ended the U.S. side's winning streak as well as its hopes for a first ever women's world title in the sport. The Italians, considered long-shots throughout the championship, overcame the Americans 18-25, 25-18, 25-16, 22-25, 15-11, to collect their first ever women's world crown and become only the fifth country to win the gold, along with Cuba, China, Japan and the former Soviet Union. *AP*

## SPORTSTV

Compiled by Lorenzo Manguiat

GOLF: Senior PGA Allianz Championship at 2 p.m. on Star Sports
AMERICAN FOOTBALL: NFL Blast at 8:30 a.m. on ESPN
NFL - Philadelphia Eagles vs Washington Redskins at 9 a.m. (r - 8:30 p.m.) on ESPN
SOCCER: English Premier Football League at 7 a.m. and 6:03 p.m. on Star Sports and 4 p.m. on ESPN

## Admiral's admiration

SPECTATOR

*Al S. Mendoza*

THE KOREANS, as expected, play the course almost everyday since it was inaugurated last May.

"We should not be surprised, of course," said Vice Admiral Louie Fernandez (retired). "Each time we teed off, they were also teeing off. They are maximizing every available opportunity at their disposal."

The Admiral came back from Busan on Sunday in the company of the five-man Philippine Golf Team–Angelo Que, Jerome Delariarte, Marlon Dizon, Juvic Pagunsan and alternate Cookie La'O. They were there for four days to sample the Asiad Country Club, venue of the Asian Games golf competition Oct. 3-6.

"The course does not have much water and bunkers," the Admiral said. "It's a bit narrow, though. Its fairways are about 25 meters tight. Overall, because it is barely four months old, it's not really a difficult course."

Built by the "kinder" Dye (Pete), the course has 27 holes. The nines of Pine (par-36) and Lake (par-36) will be used for the competition.

The Admiral describes the course as similar to that of Camp John Hay in Baguio "because it's on a hilltop." The weather is a bit nippy and it is windy, particularly in the afternoon.

"Cookie (La'O) scored a 1-under in one round while Jerome (Delariarte) did a 2-under," said the Admiral. "The worst round we had was a 4-over-par."

He said he liked the attitude of the boys.

"They are all psyched-up," he said. "They are hungry for victory."

Proof to this, the Admiral said, was the boys' decision to cancel their sightseeing tour to play another round for a total of three rounds in three days.

"I've never seen them so fired up," he said. "I honestly feel our trip was worth it. The boys calibrated their game and meticulously studied every so-called nook and cranny of the course. Each has his own checklist. The benefits we reaped will surely put us in good stead during the competition."

The last time we won the individual gold was in 1986, during the Asian Games in Seoul, through Ramon Brobio. We won the individual silver and team silver in the 1998 Bangkok Asiad.

"This time, I feel we have a good chance of winning the gold again," the Admiral said.

I share your view, Admiral.

■

**Condolence to the loved ones left behind by Mandy Salvador, my dear, dear kabaleyan who died on Sunday. His remains are at Funeraria Paz along Araneta Avenue, Quezon City. Mandy, whose father was martyred during World War II while he was still in his mother's womb, rose to become the president of the Sons & Daughters of War Veterans in the Philippines. He was one of the gentlest persons I've ever known. Bye, Mandy. We will miss you.**

## BLAST FROM THE PAST

TODAY in 1990, Frankie Miñoza shot an even-par 72 to post a one-stroke victory over American Michael Blewett in the Malaysian Masters Golf Championship in Kuala Lumpur. Also today in 1990, Rodrigo Cuello fired a one-over-par 72 and notched a one-stroke victory over Cesar Ababa in the Lanang edition of the Philip Morris Golf Classic in Davao.

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### China emerging from drug cloud

BEIJING—China swears it is emerging from its drug cloud although two positive doping tests by swimmers this year has dented progress it has made to clean up its act. World swimming body FINA said Ying Shan, a member of China's world record-setting 4x100m freestyle team from 1997, and her compatriot Jiawei Zhou both tested positive for the banned anabolic steroid clenbuterol in January. AFP

# SPORTS

Editor Al S. Mendoza ◎ Associate Editor Edwin M. Villanueva

**FOUR DIGIT**
9 6 1 0
(In exact order)

**SUERTRES**
5 2 3

**MEGALOTTO 6/45**
15 17 24 29 42 43

## PBA HELP NEEDED

# Alejo: Revive players' association

## Skygo stuns Shark, 67-66

**GAMES TODAY** *(Makati Coliseum)*
1 p.m.—Blu All-Purpose vs Casino
3 p.m.—Skygo Riders vs Hapee-Cebu
5 p.m.—Montaña vs General Milling

SKYGO Riders nipped Regent Cheese Ball-Shark, 67-66, yesterday at the start of the 1st PBL-CBF Dual Meet at the Makati Coliseum.

Alano Caputolan scored the marginal points, sinking two free throws with 2:37 left in the game. Caputolan, who scored his charities off Francis Sanz, topscored with 17 points, 13 rebounds and one blocked shot.

In the second game, John O turned back Hapee-Toothpaste-Cebu, 78-75. Ranidel De Ocampo lead John O with 25 points. *DUE*

**SKYGO RIDERS 67**—Caputolan 17, Tangkay 14, Dacia 13, Lumantas 6, Licanda 5, Cabrera 5, Villarin 3, Lopez 2, Cavan 2, Romero 0, Galinato 0, Lanutan 0, Tecson 0.

**REGENT CHEESE BALL-SHARK 66**—Castro 16, Epondulan 15, Junio 10, Sanz 8, Omolon 6, Sotto 6, Magsumbol 5, Ybanez 0, Basilides 0, Newton 0, Alcaraz 0, Valdez 0, Ortega 0.

Quarters: 15-17, 36-38, 55-54, 67-66.

By June Navarro

ALEJO

**IN AN EFFORT to uplift the livelihood of retired cagers, PBA chair Francisco "Butch" Alejo called on the league and its players yesterday to revive the moribund PBA Players' Association.**

Alejo, the president of Purefoods Corp., said the league should help activate the players' union to guarantee the welfare of the players long after they hung up their jerseys.

"The league should help revive the players' association and take an active role in developing plans not only for active players but for retired players as well," Alejo told the INQUIRER.

Alejo said he was deeply moved by the plight of former PBA players Teddy Alfarero and Alex Clariño, who were featured in Maki Pulido's I-Witness on GMA-7 last month.

Clariño died of cancer last month, his pocket almost empty.

Alfarero drove jeepneys and tricycles after his retirement.

The La Salle alumni association came forward to extend financial help to Alfarero days after the TV show that featured him and Clariño.

"My heart bleeds for these players whom we idolize at one time or the other. It is only but fitting to assure them of a bright future long after they retire," said Alejo.

Although there are no concrete plans yet, Alejo said he would take the necessary steps and discuss the matter with PBA Commissioner Jun Bernardino.

Recently, Sen. Robert Jaworski has asked the PBA to include provisions for retirement, educational and financial benefits and other assistance packages in the league's uniform player's contract.

The Living Legend of Philippine basketball also said the PBA has the moral obligation to look after the welfare of the players at the end of their career because the league owes its success to these players.

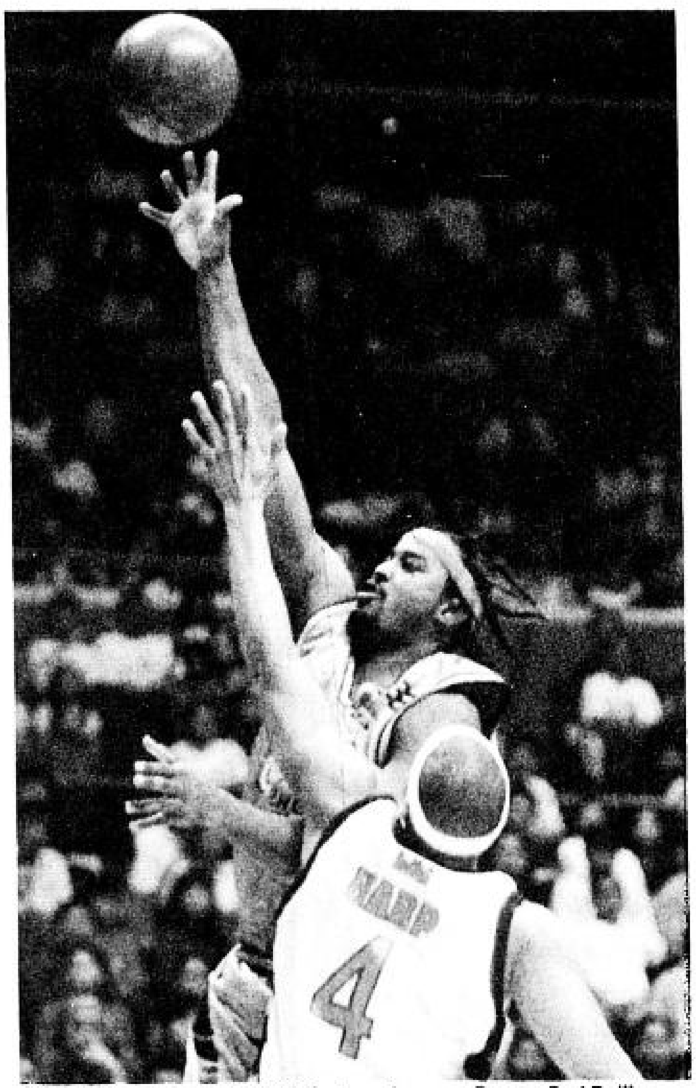
Jaworski was the founding president of the PBA Players' Association.

But the association has been inactive for years now.

During his time, Jaworski advocated for the establishment of a player's compensation incentive program designed to take care of the players' health, education and other benefits.

Jaworski said the program failed to get off the ground due to the lack of support from the PBA.

> *Jaworski rues PBA inaction to previous plans of the association to alleviate the plight of retired cagers*



JERALD Honeycutt of Talk N Text soaring over Batang Red Bull's Davonn Harp (No. 4) during Game 5 of their championship series Sunday night. Talk N Text won, 77-55, to take a 3-2 edge in the best-of-seven series. VAL HANDUMON

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■ Metro mayors up in arms over IRA cut

METRO

Editor Louie C. Camino

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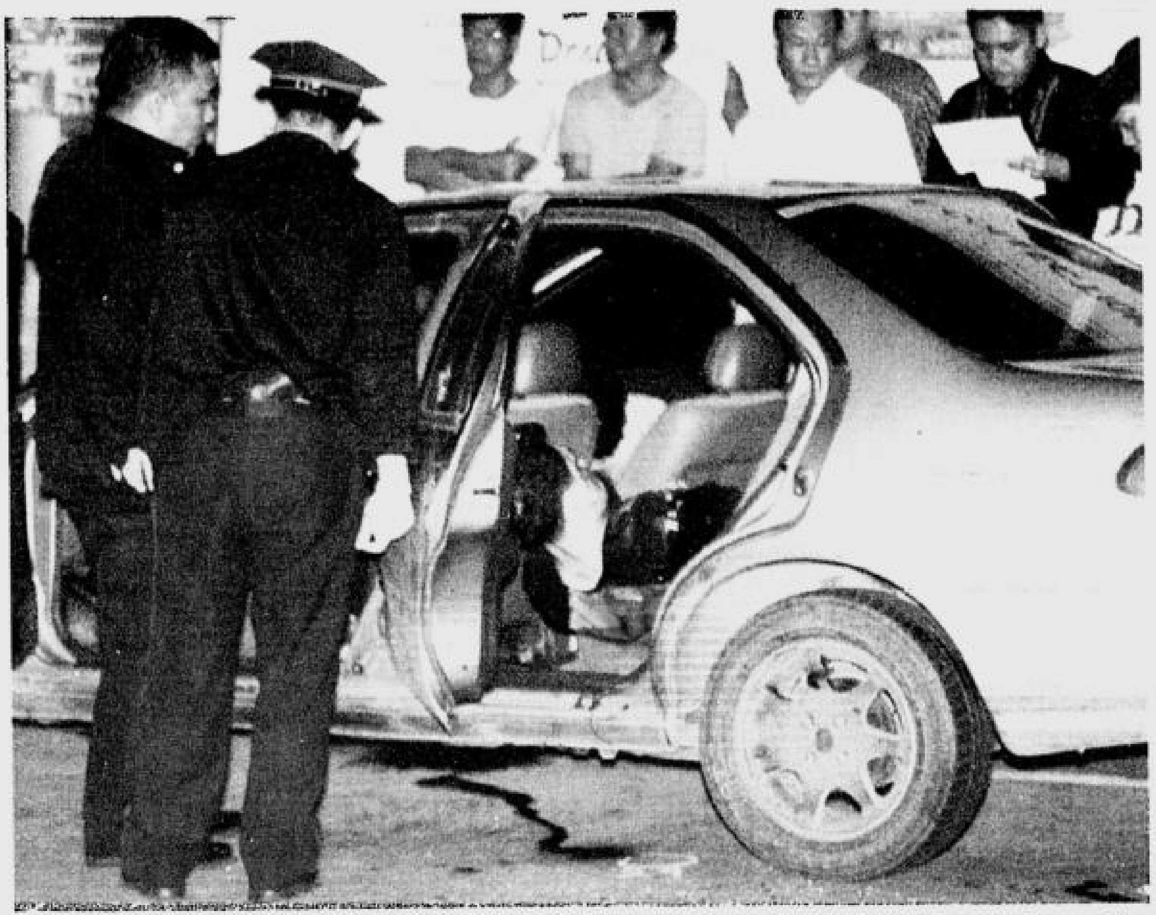
# Rubout, not shootout, says witness



END of the road for one of alleged car thieves, shot dead by TMG agents on Congressional Avenue in Quezon City. RANDY HORMILLOSA

**By Alcuin Papa**

IT WAS "salvage," or summary execution, and not a shootout.

So said a taxi driver who said he witnessed what police had said was a shootout along Congressional Avenue in Barangay Bahay Toro, Quezon City last Saturday.

Members of the Philippine National Police Traffic Management Group shot dead five men whom they said were car theft suspects.

The cabbie's allegations recall the infamous Kuratong Baleleng rubout in Quezon City in May 1995 in which policemen shot down 11 suspected robbery gang members, also in the same city.

According to the driver, he was trailing two vehicles, a Toyota Tamaraw FX (UVL-170) and a gray Nissan Sentra car (UUB-278), along Congressional Avenue when an unmarked maroon L-300 van suddenly appeared and blocked the path of the FX and the Sentra.

Police had said the alleged shootout happened at about 2 a.m.

The cabbie told reporters five men carrying high powered guns alighted from the van and, without warning, opened fire at the FX and the Sentra.

He said that later that Saturday, he learned that the men who had been shot were alleged car thieves.

But no shootout with police occured, the driver said.

He said some of his friends tried to convince him to testify on what he knew of the incident but he refused because he feared for his life and the lives of his family.

Earlier reports had said the men in the FX and the Sentra were suspected members of a car theft syndicate who shot it out with members of the TMG.

Two of the suspects were identified as Noel Parungao and Jose Vener Garcia, 31. Parungao was said to be on the TMG watchlist.

Garcia's father Roberto said men who identified themselves as policemen had forcibly taken his son from his home in the early hours of Thursday.

He said he would file criminal and administrative charges against members of the TMG under its chief, Sr. Supt. Danilo Mangila.

Sr. Supt. Napoleon Castro, the newly installed head of the Central Police District, yesterday vowed there would be no whitewash in the investigation of the "shootout."

He said he has ordered CPD Criminal Investigation Unit chief Supt. Raul Medina to conduct a thorough investigation.

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# Subdivisions Fernando's latest target

**By Leila B. Salaverria, Philip C. Tubeza and Christian V. Esguerra**

PRIVATE subdivisions, without exemption, will have to open their gates and let the public use their roads, or the Metro Manila Development Authority will keep their gates closed permanently.

MMDA Chair Bayani Fernando made this warning yesterday even as urban groups continue to condemn him for his campaign to ease traffic congestion in the metropolis.

"If they don't want to open the gates, then we will keep them closed," Fernando said yesterday in his weekly news conference. "There is no such thing as a private road. Any road customarily used as a road is considered public.

"The government has jurisdiction inside private subdivisions," he added.

FERNANDO

This has met with opposition from subdivision residents who cite security risks and increased pollution.

In his campaign against obstructions on sidewalks, Fernando announced that the MMDA will deploy a newly acquired 10-wheeler truck remodeled as a "mobile shop," which will carry all the equipment needed for the clearing operations.

The truck will be deployed along with blue buses that will take MMDA workers to operation sites, as well as a portable toilet and a backhoe for the use of the workers.

The blue "mobile shop" will carry, among others, helmets, boots, sledgehammers, jackhammers, chainsaws, crowbars, safety goggles, spray paint, a generator and water jugs.

The truck costs an estimated P1 million, said Fernando.

The MMDA earlier acquired 10 second-hand buses to bring the workers to operation sites. One of the buses has been designated a prison bus for apprehended jaywalkers, litterbugs and other violators.

Fernando reiterated that there would be no letup in his drive to clear the sidewalks of obstructions.

There is also no letup in the protests against his campaign.

"I'm meeting with lawyers this afternoon to determine what criminal and administrative charges to file against (Fernando)," Caloocan Councilor Nathanael Santiago, who is also Bayan Muna secretary general, said yesterday.

He said Fernando would be charged criminally for destroying goods seized from sidewalk vendors, and administratively for violating former President Fidel Ramos' Executive Order No. 452.

The EO says towns and cities should first consult the vendors and provide a viable alternative workplace for them before the vendors are removed.

Carmen "*Nanay* Mameng" Deunida, national president of the Kalipunan ng Damayang Mahihirap (Kadamay), said the MMDA should instead go after mayors, barangay officials, MMDA officers and policemen who protect illegal vendors or collect grease money from them.

"We're seen as the root of all problems but the MMDA is not policing its own ranks," Deunida said in Filipino.

If sidewalk vending is illegal, mayors should also be reprimanded for giving permits to vendors, she added.

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# Girl dies imitating MTB's 'Ano Ka, Hilo?'

**By Carmela Reyes**
*PDI Central Luzon Desk*

HAGONOY, Bulacan—Eight-year-old Joy Guevarra died Sunday afternoon after imitating game contestants in a popular noontime television show.

Joy and her brother and other neighborhood kids played like they were in the the TV game, where a contestant is turned around several times to induce dizziness and then is made to walk a few meters to get the prize money from a bowl, said the girl's father Enrico, 26.

He was apparently referring to "Ano Ka, Hilo?", a game in the noontime show "Magandang Tanghali Bayan" on ABS-CBN Channel 2.

Contestants usually fall while trying to reach the prize money.

The father said that after playing, Guevarra complained of dizziness and fell asleep. She never woke up, he said.

He said he found her unconscious in her room in their house in Barangay San Pedro here.

He said that as the "contestant" in the game, his daughter was made to turn around a few times while pointing a finger to the ground. Her playmates held her hair while she turned around, then she walked as fast as she could to a designated "finish line," Enrico said.

After playing, Guevarra complained to her father of dizziness, a headache and exhaustion, Enrico said.

He said that 30 minutes later, he went to her room to give her a pill for her headache and found her unconscious.

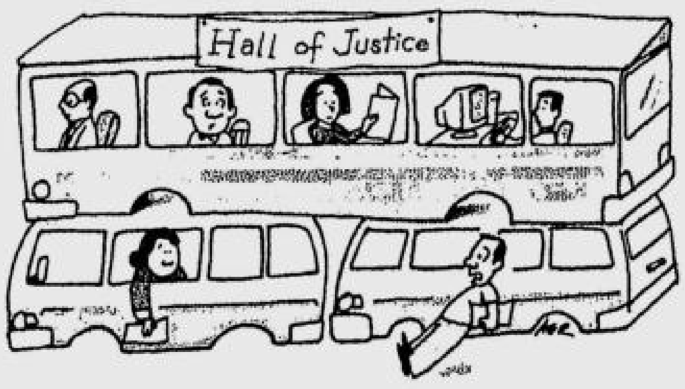
He brought her to Divine Word Hospital here where doctors declared her dead.

Enrico said he was not blaming the TV show for his daughter's death because it has a "parental guidance" advisory on some segments of the show.

But he called on other parents to remind their children of the possible harmful effects of imitating TV game shows.

# Justice served in Malabon containers

**By Tina Santos**



ALMOST two years after fire razed the hall of justice in Malabon City, a new office for government prosecutors has not been built. Now, the prosecutors attend t .se loads and hearings are conducted in makeshift offices—rusted container vans.

The prosecutors have appealed to President Macapagal-Arroyo to provide them with a better workplace.

"We need more decent and more spacious offices," said chief prosecutor Jorge Catalan Jr.

He said he and seven other prosecutors in his group hold court in a modestly furnished 40-foot container van in Barangay Catmon, Malabon near the site of the scrapped P122-million city hall project.

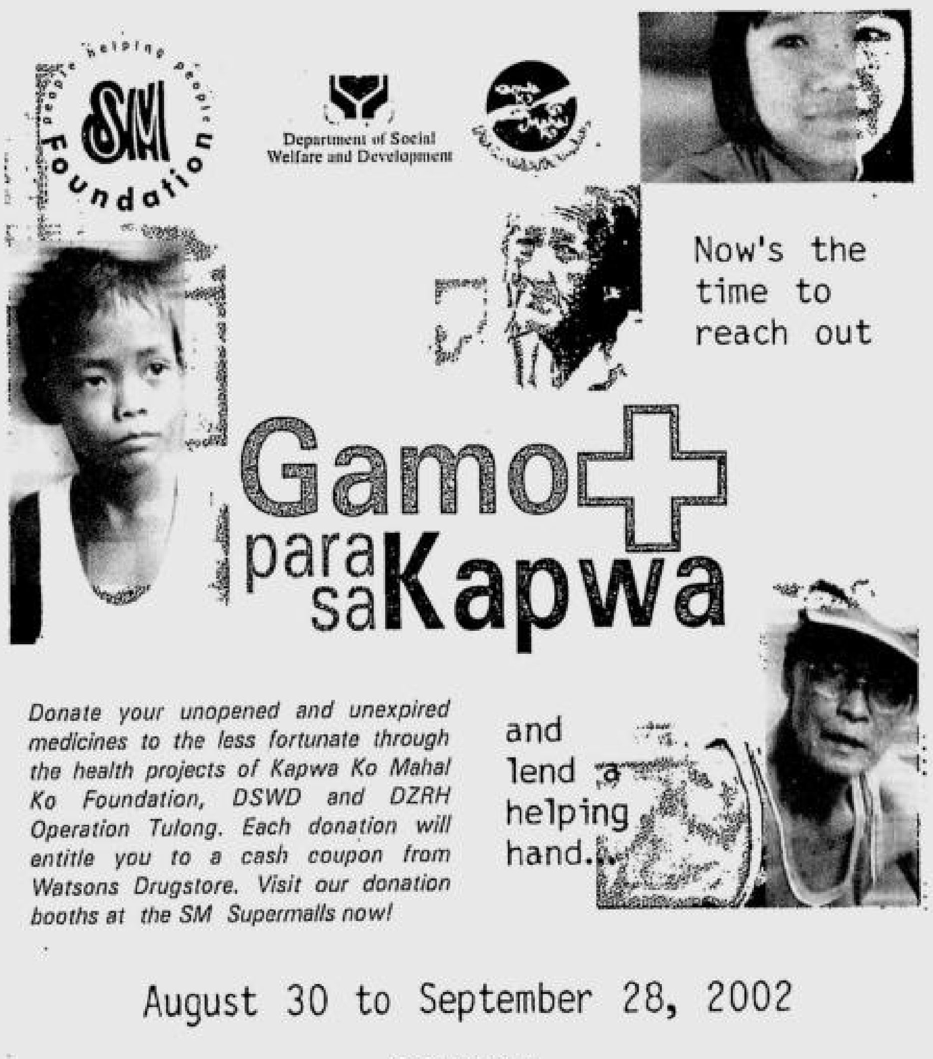
Childhood friends had donated the container van, Catalan said.

Aside from enduring the cramped space, the prosecutors have to contend with murky floodwaters that are often knee-deep during heavy rains. The floods get worse when the tides rush in, said Catalan, whose office is on top of two 20-foot container vans that suspended Malabon Mayor Amado Vicencio had donated after the fire. The two vans serve as offices of the other prosecutors and their staff.

"But despite these conditions, we make sure we do our jobs the best way we can," said Catalan, whose job as chief prosecutor is equivalent in rank to a regional trial court judge. He and his colleagues handle an average of 10 to 15 cases a day.

Fire had also razed the Navotas prosecutors' office, and a new one has also not been built. The prosecutors now hold office on the second floor of the four-story building of the Fisheries Development Authority at the Navotas Fish Port Complex.

Catalan said he has made representations with Malabon-Navotas Rep. Ricky Sandoval so they can leave their present offices in Navotas and has been offered the bigger offices of the Land Transportation Office in the same PFDA building.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# RTC orders Malonzo, city officials to pay P.7M

By Tina Santos

A CALOOCAN court yesterday ordered Mayor Rey Malonzo and other city officials to pay P700,000 in fines and legal fees, after it ruled on a long-standing land dispute in favor of businessman Gregorio "Greggy" Araneta III.

Judge Antonio Fineza of the Caloocan Regional Trial Court Branch 131 ordered Malonzo and all city councilors to pay the amount of P600,000 plus P110,075 in legal fees for passing an "unconstitutional" resolution against Araneta's Carmel Development Inc.

The dispute between Araneta and the local government over the 156-hectare Pangarap Village in barangays 181 and 182 has been raging for years. Over 30,000 urban poor families now occupy the property.

In the six-page court decision, the court ruled that city council Resolution No. 1198 is invalid, unconstitutional and void.

According to court records, the the city council passed Resolution 1198 on Oct. 8, 2001, empowering the mayor to exercise control and supervision over the entire stretch of Araneta Avenue and other places in Pangarap Village.

The court noted the resolution granted to Malonzo "an enormous power, right and authority to violate the constitutional guarantee and protection afforded to citizens of this country."

# Metro mayors up in arms over IRA cut

By Christian Esguerra

METRO Manila mayors yesterday warned of a breakdown in the provision of basic services after the national government allegedly cut the Internal Revenue Allotment (IRA) of local governments by 20 percent.

Pasay Mayor Wenceslao Trinidad, spokesperson of the Metro Manila Mayors' League, said services such as garbage collection and those rendered in day-care centers would be "crippled" unless the Department of Budget and Management backtracks on its decision to cut the IRA.

"Mayors are condemning (the IRA reduction) in the strongest terms," Trinidad told the INQUIRER. "Definitely, it's the poor who will be most affected."

Trinidad said he would write a letter to Budget Secretary Emilia Boncodin to convince the national government to remit Pasay's IRA without any deduction.

The mayor argued that the reduction violated RA 7160, which supposedly provides for the full release of IRA.

But Boncodin had clarified that the delay in the release of a portion of the fund had the blessing of governors and mayors. She said local governments would receive the remainder of the IRA by December.

In a letter dated Aug. 8, DBM director Ruby Estebal informed the Pasay government of the release of its IRA amounting to P22,993,310, representing the month of August.

Trinidad said the local government could use only P14,860,648 due to the 20-percent deduction.

"Just imagine how much we lost," he said.

## *Developer in Amador case to be arraigned*

THE GRAVE coercion case which former "Miss Saigon" actress Pinky Amador filed against real estate developer Melody Co Lim and officers of Ray Burton Development Corporation is set for arraignment tomorrow at 8:30 a.m. at the Makati Municipal Trial Court Branch 64 under Judge Dina Teves.

Lim and the other accused–Nelia Yoro and Amelita Bautista–have each posted bail of P12,000 through Plaridel Insurance Company.

Amador filed a case of coercion (criminal case number 314531) after Lim cut off the utilities of her condo unit in Elizabeth Place, Makati City, forcing the actress to leave the residence and seek refuge with her family and friends.

AMADOR

Amador said she was threatened with eviction. Three days later, her utilities were cut off.

Amador found out that the mother title of her unit, and 441 others in Elizabeth Place, had been foreclosed to China Banking Corporation, even before she paid her down payment. She had opened a trust account for either the developer or the banking institution.

# Seigle, 5 others, rapped for nightclub brawl

By Leila B. Salaverria

ATTEMPTED murder and slander by deed charges were filed against basketball player Andy Seigle, his brother Mark and four John Does, for allegedly beating up three bouncers in a night club brawl.

Seigle is facing a maximum sentence of eight years in prison.

Bennilito Benitez, 25, Miguel Honor Jr., 36 and Angelito Moreno, Jr., 28, all bouncers of Club V on Amorsolo Street, Barangay San Lorenzo, Makati, filed the complaint before the Makati City Prosecutor's Office on Sept. 13.

In their statement, the bouncers claimed Seigle and his group beat them up on Sept. 8 inside Club V. They said they tried to pacify Seigle and his group, who were allegedly reeking of liquor and dancing "aggresively," hitting the club's guests with their feet and arms.

Bu the marketing and public relations manager of Club V, Jodge Ledesma, has earlier cleared the PBA player of any involvement in the reported brawl, saying it was in fact Seigle who tried to pacify his friends who got into a row with the bouncers.

The complainants said Seigle and his group allegedly blocked the path of, and made lascivious gestures at, other guests.

Bouncer Moreno said when he tried to pacify Seigle, the player's brother allegedly punched him on the back of his head.

"You stupid Filipinos are no match to our group," Moreno quoted Seigle as saying. "I'll kill each and every one of you."

Benitez also tried to pacify the group, but claimed he was punched on different parts of the body.

# No one moved when victim called for help in Tondo robbery

By Philip Tubeza

"WE called the police, but the people did not do anything. It was like they were just watching a movie. They just looked at us."

Shell gas station cashier Maria Julieta Vergania and her two coworkers were still recovering from the shock of the robbery and the apathy of the bystanders who witnessed yesterday's noontime robbery in Tondo, Manila, when they reported the matter to investigators at the Western Police District Station 2.

"The police did not even come," Vergania said. "I was even the one who reported the incident to the police station."

The area where the robbery happened is under the jurisdiction of WPD Station 7.

She said the bystanders milled about their vehicle, a Mitsubishi Strada, and just watched the victims, while she ran after the suspects' getaway vehicle, a Mitsubishi Adventure, and took down its license plates.

She said the robbers hit them on the corner of Juan Luna and Pavia streets, took the P824,494 of gas station earnings, which she meant to deposit, and fled.

# Fires hit Ever Gotesco mall, Caloocan factory

By Tina Santos

SOME P10 million worth of property were lost in two fires that struck the Ever Gotesco Grand Central Mall and a rubber factory, both in Caloocan City yesterday.

No one was reported injured in both fires, fire investigators said.

Arson investigator FO1 Marcelino Esposo III said the bigger fire gutted the Superior Rubber Corporation factory on 7th Street, between 9th and 10th avenues in Caloocan.

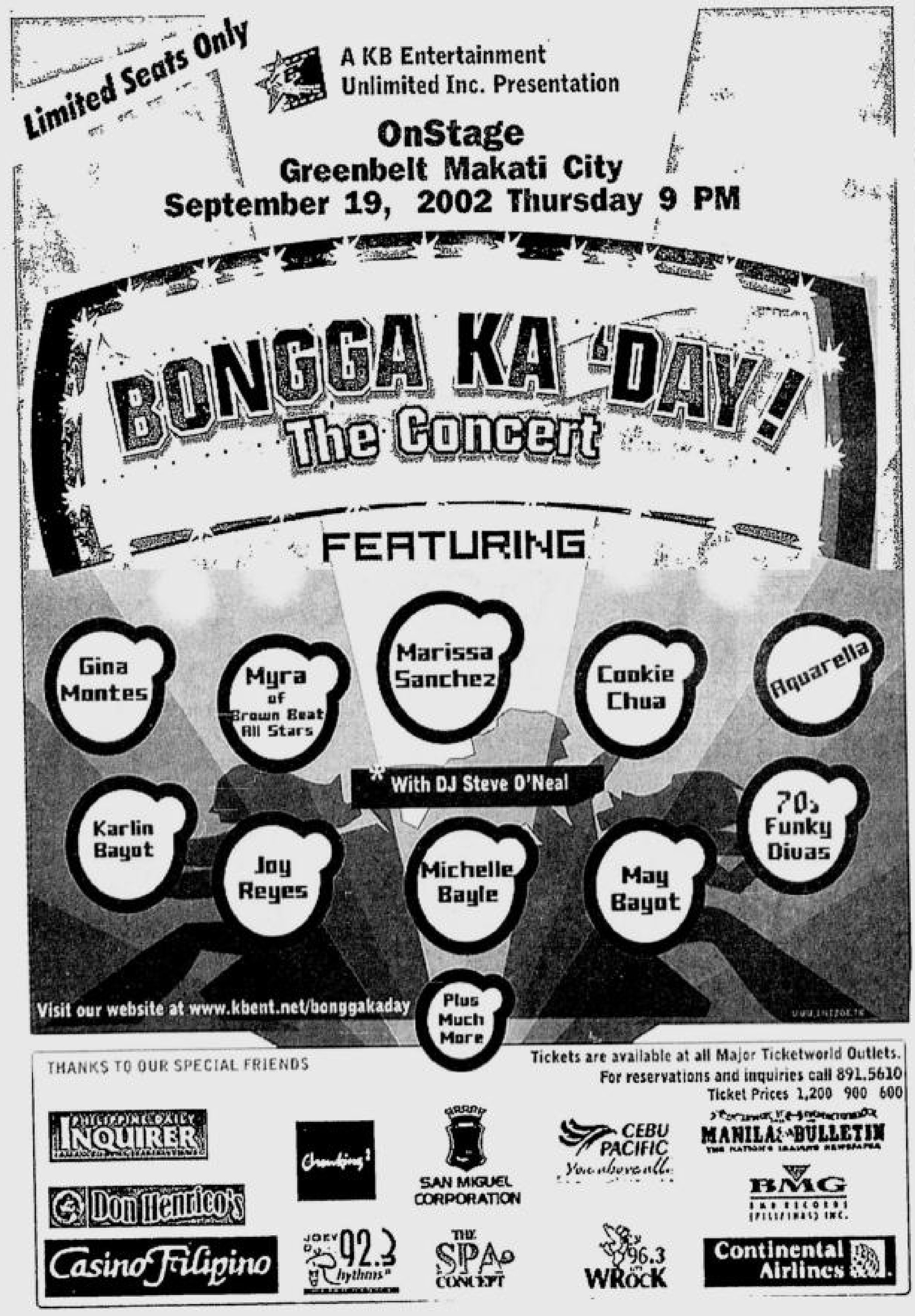
The origins of the fire, which raged for six hours, was traced to the production area of the factory, investigators said.

The firm, owned by a Lucky Vy, is said to be one of the biggest slipper and sandal manufacturers in Metro Manila.

FO1 Esposo said the fire started at 1:50 a.m. and quickly spread because of the highly combustible materials stored in the factory. But he said probers still have to determine what sparked the fire.

A minor fire struck the basement of the Ever Gotesco Grand Central Mall in Monumento. Fire probers said the fire was due to faulty electrical wiring.

They said the blaze lasted only for a couple of minutes, before it was completely put out.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# Military body count: Where are the bodies?

**ON TARGET**

*Ramon Tulfo*

THE CITIZENRY should not readily believe military figures of casualties on the side of the Abu Sayyaf or communist rebels after an encounter.

Such figures might be bloated or worse, non-existent.

The question should be asked: where are the bodies of the dead rebels or Abu Sayyaf bandits?

* * *

News reports cite casualties on the government side, which are almost always correct because the bodies of the dead soldiers and the wounded are recovered.

But the public should suspend belief on rebel casualties unless bodies are produced.

A soldier-friend who is a veteran of the Mindanao campaign told me that sometimes the military would give bloated figures of rebel casualties to give the impression that government troops have the upper hand in the battlefield.

* * *

You've probably come across some reports of encounters between government troops and the rebels where the military said that it suffered such and such a number of casualties. The military would then cite a bigger number of dead or wounded on the side of the rebels.

But the tailend of the reports would say that the bodies of the enemy were not recovered or had yet to be recovered because their comrades carried them in their escape.

It is very difficult, even impossible, to carry a dead body when you're being shot at and you're shooting back, according to my veteran friend. The tendency of combatants is to carry their wounded and leave their dead behind. Carrying dead bodies slows down the escape.

So, the next time you read that government troops killed such and such a number of rebels during an encounter, you should take the report with a grain of salt.

* * *

**The Southern Command has been reporting that so many Abu Sayyaf bandits have been killed in the current offensive.**

**But where are the bodies?**

**The Southcom, citing reports from its men in the field, say after an encounter, the bandits took the bodies of their dead comrades with them in their escape.**

* * *

Our consul general in Hong Kong, Domingo Lucenario Jr., was put to shame not by people in the host country but by his own countrymen.

Lucenario invited his friends in Hong Kong to play several rounds of golf in Laoag, Ilocos Norte.

But then trouble started for his guests when Lucenario could not go with them to Laoag for one reason or another.

* * *

**Two of those who accepted Lucenario's invitation were a couple, Magdoom Thamry Fiaz and his wife, Mariam Fathima.**

**At the Laoag Airport, immigration agents separated the couple from the queue. They were asked for their marriage contract. The Fiazes hold Indian passports; their passports bear multiple entry visa issued by the Philippine Consulate in Hong Kong.**

**When Fiaz approached an immigration official and asked the latter what was going on, the immigration man shoved him and screamed at him.**

* * *

Mr. Fiaz was told that there was a communication from the Manila immigration office disallowing Indian passport holders into Laoag City.

The Fiaz couple was finally allowed to go but their passports were taken by the immigration agents. Apparently, this would guarantee that they would make their flight back to Hong Kong.

The Fiazes played golf for three days. When they got back to the airport for their flight home, Mr. Fiaz was fined P3,000 by a certain immigration officer named Ablan.

What was the P3,000 for? And why were the immigration people arrogant toward the visitors of the Philippine consul general in Hong Kong?

* * *

**Former Tourism Secretary Vicente Carlos has been charged with estafa before the City Prosecutor's Office in Makati.**

**The RN Hi-Speed Ferries Ltd. (RNHSF) of Hong Kong, of which Carlos used to be treasurer, filed the charge.**

**RNHSF said Carlos embezzled P20,404,877.57 from the company which is owned by Macau gambling magnate Stanley Ho.**

* * *

The firm ordered Carlos to deposit the money at the Equitable Bank but he never deposited it. Instead, he told the company he deposited the money at the Urban Bank, which has gone bankrupt.

But a check by the firm with Urban Bank showed that Carlos never deposited such an amount at the bank.

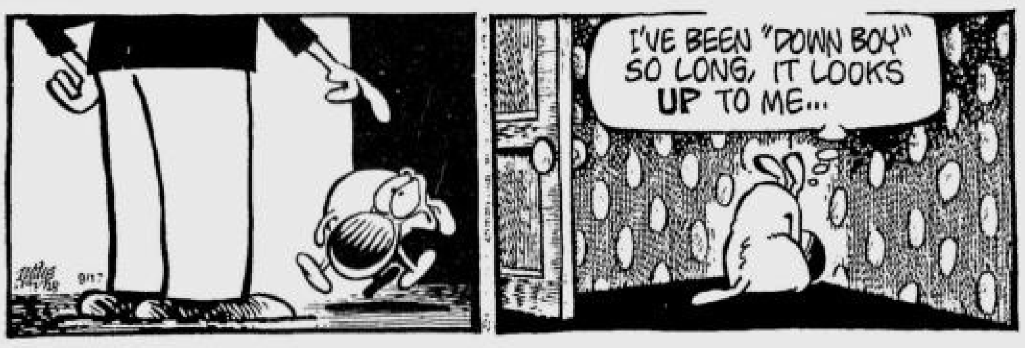
When RNHSF pressed him for the recovery of the money, Carlos was nowhere to be found.

His friends say he lost the P20 million at the casinos.

One wonders how much government money Carlos squandered when he was the tourism secretary!

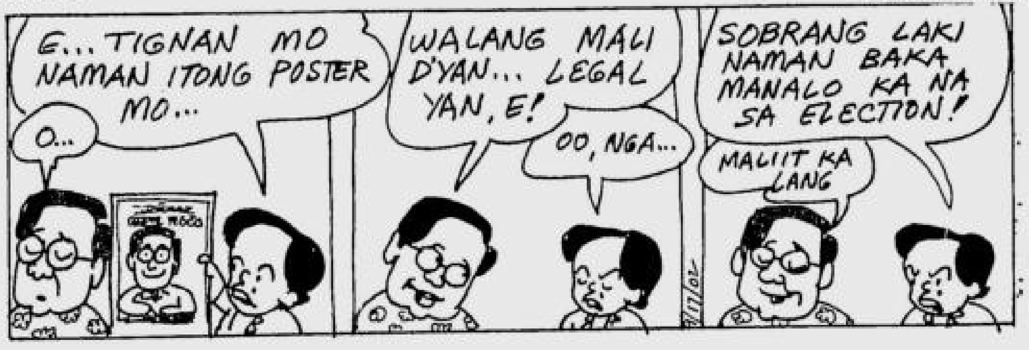
### MOTHER GOOSE & GRIMM

BY MIKE PETERS


I'VE BEEN "DOWN BOY" SO LONG, IT LOOKS UP TO ME...

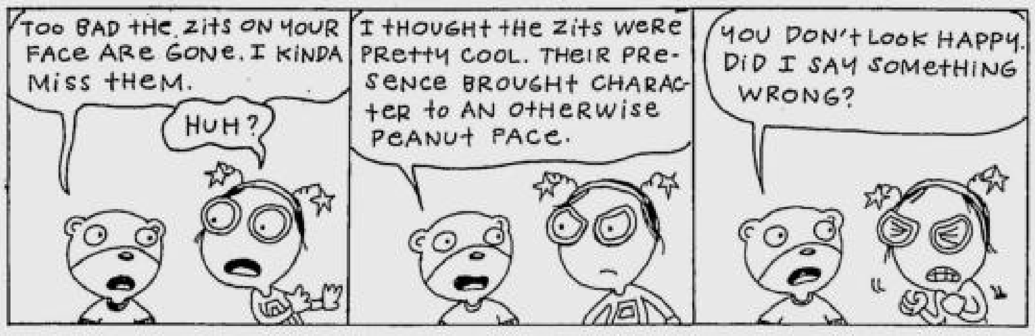
### A. LIPIN

BY JESS ABRERA


E... TIGNAN MO NAMAN ITONG POSTER MO...
O...
WALANG MALI D'YAN... LEGAL YAN, E!
OO, NGA...
SOBRANG LAKI NAMAN BAKA MANALO KA NA SA ELECTION!
MALIIT KA LANG

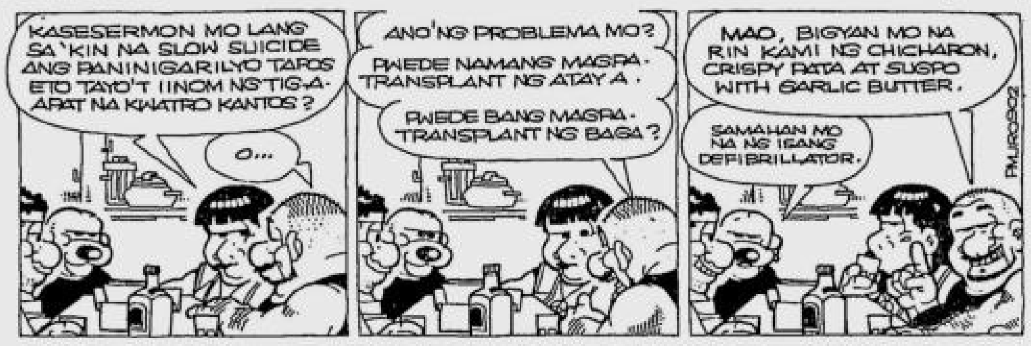
### ATOMO AND WEBOY

BY LYRA GARCELLANO


TOO BAD THE ZITS ON YOUR FACE ARE GONE. I KINDA MISS THEM.
HUH?
I THOUGHT THE ZITS WERE PRETTY COOL. THEIR PRESENCE BROUGHT CHARACTER TO AN OTHERWISE PEANUT FACE.
YOU DON'T LOOK HAPPY. DID I SAY SOMETHING WRONG?

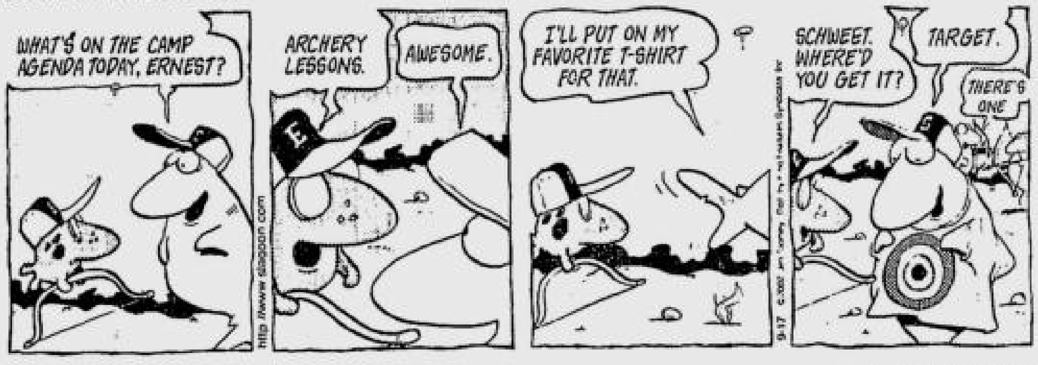
### PUGAD BABOY

BY P.M. JUNIOR


KASESERMON MO LANG SA'KIN NA SLOW SUICIDE ANG PANINIGARILYO TAPOS ETO TAYO'T IINOM NG TIG-APAT NA KWATRO KANTOS?
O...
ANO'NG PROBLEMA MO? PWEDE NAMANG MAGPA-TRANSPLANT NG ATAY A.
PWEDE BANG MAGPA-TRANSPLANT NG BAGA?
MAO, BIGYAN MO NA RIN KAMI NG CHICHARON, CRISPY PATA AT SUGPO WITH GARLIC BUTTER.
SAMAHAN MO NA NG ISANG DEFIBRILLATOR.

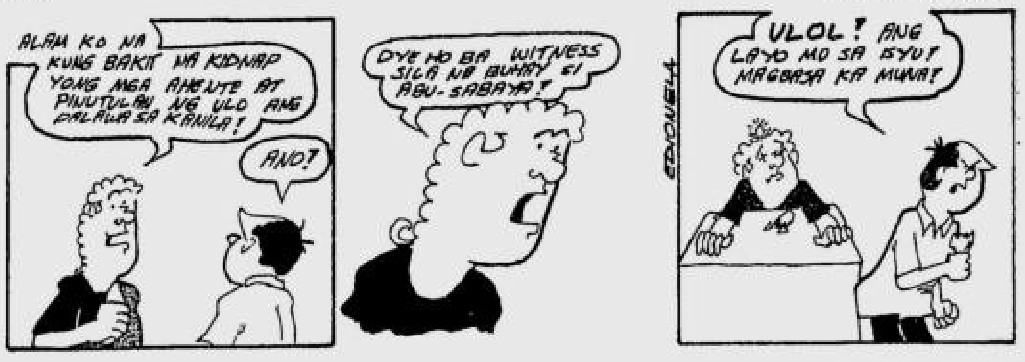
### SHERMAN'S LAGOON

BY JIM TOOMEY


WHAT'S ON THE CAMP AGENDA TODAY, ERNEST?
ARCHERY LESSONS.
AWESOME.
I'LL PUT ON MY FAVORITE T-SHIRT FOR THAT.
SCHWEET. WHERE'D YOU GET IT?
TARGET.
THERE'S ONE
http://www.slagoon.com

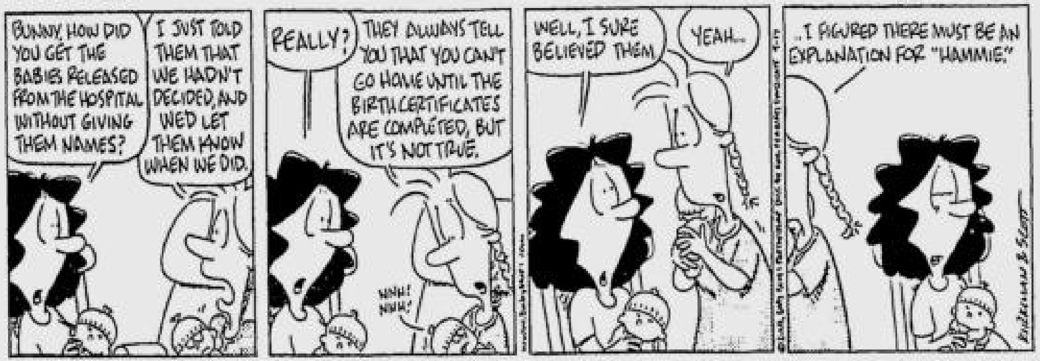
### SIMO

BY EDGAR DIONELA


ALAM KO NA KUNG BAKIT NA KIDNAP YONG MGA AHENTE AT PINUTULAN NG ULO ANG DALAWA SA KANILA!
ANO?
OYE HO BA WITNESS SILA NG BUHAY SI ABU-SABAYA?
ULOL! ANG LAYO MO SA ISYU! MAGBASA KA MUNA!

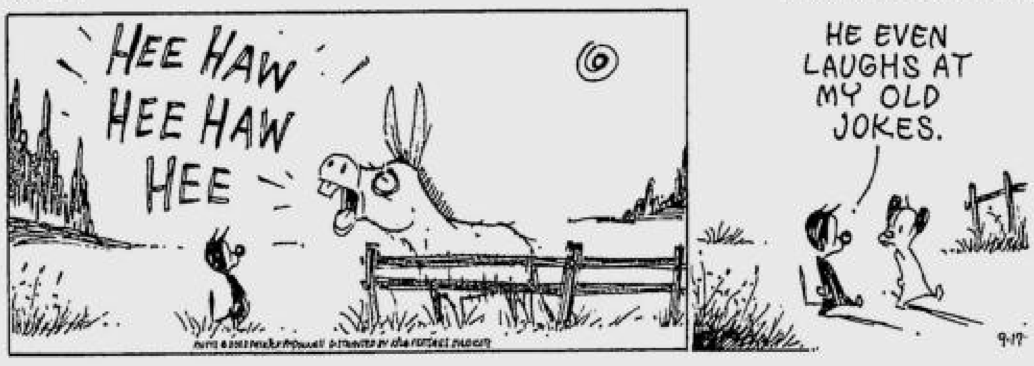
### BABY BLUES

BY JERRY SCOTT


BUNNY, HOW DID YOU GET THE BABIES RELEASED FROM THE HOSPITAL WITHOUT GIVING THEM NAMES?
I JUST TOLD THEM THAT WE HADN'T DECIDED, AND WE'D LET THEM KNOW WHEN WE DID.
REALLY?
THEY ALWAYS TELL YOU THAT YOU CAN'T GO HOME UNTIL THE BIRTH CERTIFICATES ARE COMPLETED, BUT IT'S NOT TRUE.
WAH! WAH!
WELL, I SURE BELIEVED THEM.
YEAH..
..I FIGURED THERE MUST BE AN EXPLANATION FOR "HAMMIE."

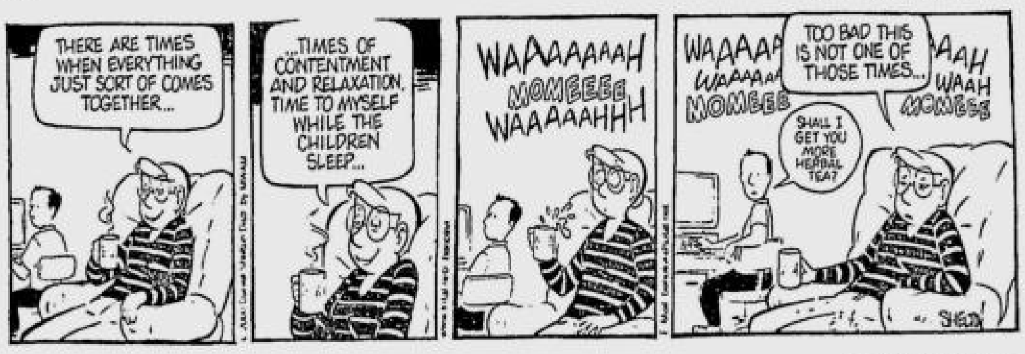
### MUTTS

BY PATRICK McDONNELL


HEE HAW HEE HAW HEE
HE EVEN LAUGHS AT MY OLD JOKES.
9-17

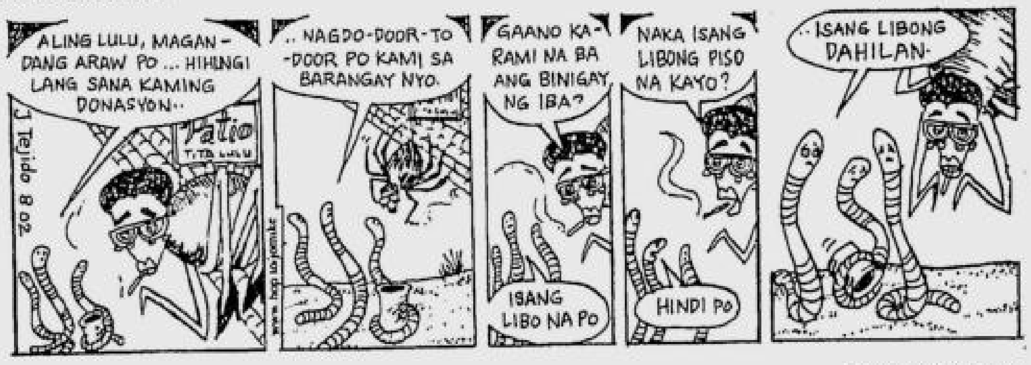
### BEN

BY DANIEL SHELTON


THERE ARE TIMES WHEN EVERYTHING JUST SORT OF COMES TOGETHER...
...TIMES OF CONTENTMENT AND RELAXATION. TIME TO MYSELF WHILE THE CHILDREN SLEEP...
WAAAAAAAH MOMEEEE WAAAAAHHH
WAAAAH WAAAAA MOMEEE
TOO BAD THIS IS NOT ONE OF THOSE TIMES...
AAH WAAH MOMEEE
SHALL I GET YOU MORE HERBAL TEA?

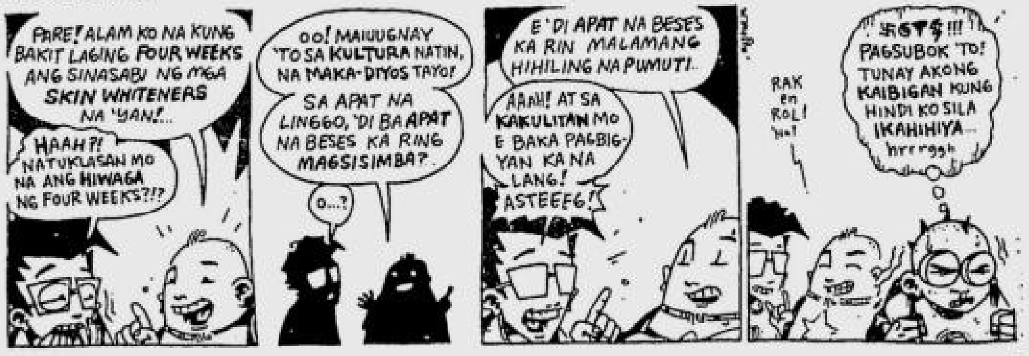
### MIKROKOSMOS

BY JOMIKE TEJIDO


ALING LULU, MAGANDANG ARAW PO... HIHINGI LANG SANA KAMING DONASYON..
Patio TITA LULU
..NAGDO-DOOR-TO-DOOR PO KAMI SA BARANGAY NYO.
GAANO KARAMI NA BA ANG BINIGAY NG IBA?
ISANG LIBO NA PO
NAKA ISANG LIBONG PISO NA KAYO?
HINDI PO
..ISANG LIBONG DAHILAN.

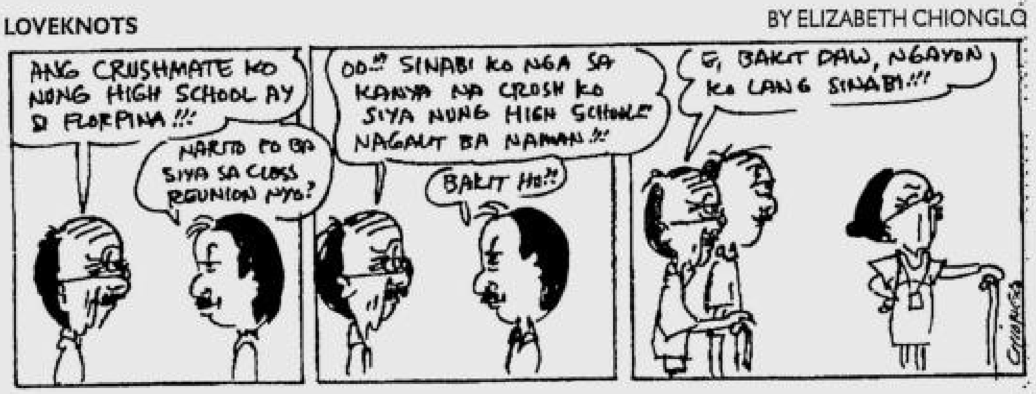
### KIKO MACHINE

BY MANIX ABRERA


PARE! ALAM KO NA KUNG BAKIT LAGING FOUR WEEKS ANG SINASABI NG MGA SKIN WHITENERS NA 'YAN!...
HAAH?! NATUKLASAN MO NA ANG HIWAGA NG FOUR WEEKS?!?
OO! MAIUUGNAY 'TO SA KULTURA NATIN, NA MAKA-DIYOS TAYO!
SA APAT NA LINGGO, 'DI BA APAT NA BESES KA RING MAGSISIMBA?
O...?
E 'DI APAT NA BESES KA RIN MALAMANG HIHILING NA PUMUTI..
AAAH! AT SA KAKULITAN MO E BAKA PAGBIGYAN KA NA LANG! ASTEEEG!
RAK en ROL! Yeh!
#@$!!! PAGSUBOK 'TO! TUNAY AKONG KAIBIGAN KUNG HINDI KO SILA IKAHIHIYA... hrrrggh

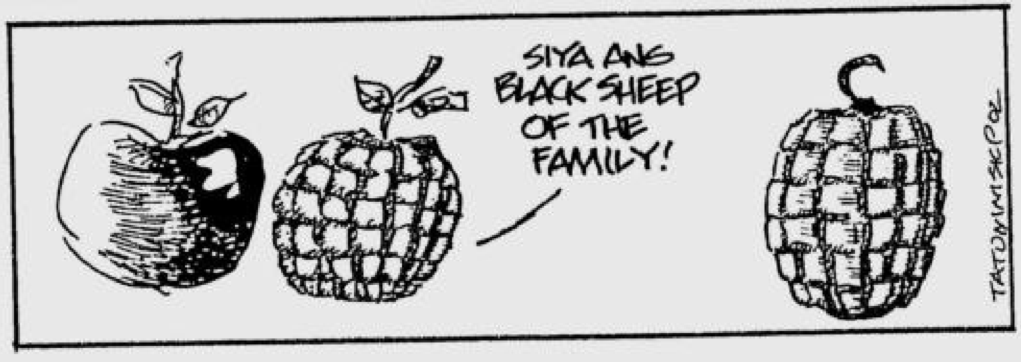
### LOVEKNOTS

BY ELIZABETH CHIONGLO


ANG CRUSHMATE KO NUNG HIGH SCHOOL AY SI FLORPINA!!!
NARITO PO BA SIYA SA CLASS REUNION NYO?
OO..!! SINABI KO NGA SA KANYA NA CRUSH KO SIYA NUNG HIGH SCHOOL! NAGALIT BA NAMAN!!!
BAKIT HO?!
E, BAKIT DAW, NGAYON KO LANG SINABI!!!

### TULDOK

BY PAPU AND TATUM MILAMBILING


SIYA ANG BLACK SHEEP OF THE FAMILY!

## HOROSCOPE

BY EUGENIA LAST

**CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY:** Anne Bancroft, John Ritter, David Souter, Hank Williams Sr.
Happy Birthday: You've been struggling so hard that you've lost perspective about what's important to you. Ask yourself what will make you happy, satisfy your needs and get you back on track. Once you have reassessed your position you will have the clarity to move in the most positive direction. Your numbers are 8, 13, 27, 32, 37, 49

**ARIES (March 21-April 19):** Getting involved in a social event could lead to an interesting connection. Your energetic nature will attract new friends and possible lovers. Take the initiative.

**TAURUS (April 20-May 20):** Be careful when dealing with work-related matters. You may not come across as being too knowledgeable. You will be able to initiate creative endeavors, however, and display your thoughts rather than speak them.

**GEMINI (May 21-June 20):** You will have the opportunity to let others hear your beliefs. The melding of different concepts will take your thoughts regarding your future to new levels. Lots of changes are coming your way.

**CANCER (June 21-July 22):** An older family member may question what you are doing. Being open and honest about your dealings, especially financial ones, will benefit you in the end.

**LEO (July 23-Aug. 22):** This can be a highly exciting day in your life if you spend time with your lover. If you're single, get out and meet someone who could turn out to be your Mr. or Ms Right. Don't hesitate to talk about your intentions.

**VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22):** Your high energy coupled with your know-how and practical sense will be enticing to any business associate you encounter today. This is the perfect time to jump into a higher-paying position.

**LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22):** Nurture, pamper and do the things that you love. Call it a mental health day, but most of all, satisfy your own needs. You will feel rejuvenated.

**SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21):** Someone who affects your life will be in dire need of your help. You may find yourself feeling a little low if you can't control the situation. Don't get angry; maintain a positive attitude.

**SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21):** Your observations will help you sort out other people's dilemmas, putting you in everyone's good graces. Get together with people who can offer you interesting conversation.

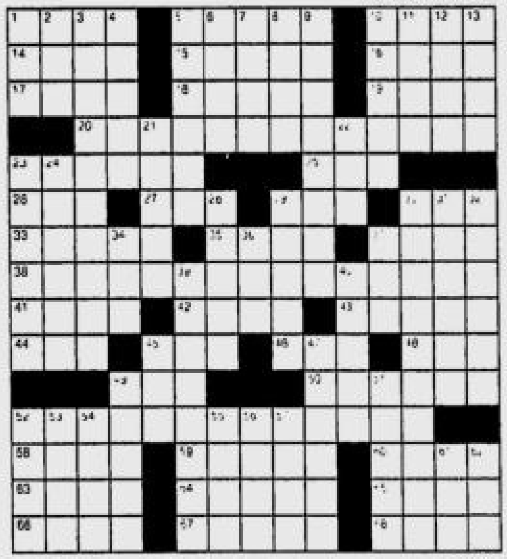
**CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19):** This can be a fabulous day if you get involved in moneymaking deals. You will have the opportunity to take on a new contract or double your money through smart investing. You can get ahead professionally if you are willing to make a move.

**AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18):** You may be emotionally confused today if you let someone lead you astray. Ask questions if you aren't sure about the way someone feels. Open communication will be the answer.

**PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20):** You will have to do your own research before you donate to an organization. Someone isn't likely to give you the whole truth about something you're considering getting involved in.
**Birthday Baby:** You will be quick to make changes and always searching for something that interests you. You will be receptive to others but will always do what you want.

## DAILY CROSSWORD

TMSPuzzles@aol.com



By N.G. Becker
Leesburg, GA

9/17/02

**ACROSS**
1 Unhearing
5 Suburb of Cleveland
10 Tilly and Ryan
14 Jodie Foster film
15 Shaquille
16 Lot of land
17 Choir member
18 In the shadows
19 Ostrichlike bird
20 "Rosie!" co-star
23 King novel
25 Baseball stat
26 Swiss mountain
27 Want __
29 Peggy or Spike
30 Org. founded by Juliette Low
33 Pomeranian or Samoyed
35 Yeah, right
37 Greek Cupid
38 Classic sitcom
41 Diaphanous
42 Pizzeria fixture
43 Colorful chalcedony
44 Compass pt.
45 Intense anger
46 Former draft org.
48 Ready to go
49 Household nickname
50 Organic fats and sterols
52 "Nothing in Common" co-star
58 Square measure
59 Steed
60 Withered
63 Droop
64 Dickinson of "Police Woman"
65 Russian ruler
66 Word with yard or garage
67 Requirements
68 Mach+ jets

**DOWN**
1 Recombinant letters
2 Conger
3 Reredos
4 Bread ingredient
5 Dispensed liquids
6 Boleyn or Bancroft
7 Depend
8 Disfigure
9 Second self
10 __ Gras
11 Reverberate
12 Increased
13 Red and deep blue
21 Type of dye
22 Writer Burrows
23 Chess move
24 Greek letters
28 Strainer
29 Depicts
30 Slippery quality
31 Categorized
32 Strong points
34 Quaker pronoun
36 Change the color of
37 Our lang.
39 Scandinavian of the past
40 Sahara stop
45 Sundial three
47 Candidate lists
49 Ray
51 Military installations
52 Peter Benchley novel
53 Song for Sills
54 Inmate's room
55 No longer present
56 Type of sled
57 Novelist Bagnold
61 Stoolie
62 Sounds of hesitation

Monday's Puzzle Solved

| | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| A | G | O | R | A | ■ | P | R | I | E | D | ■ | C | Y | D |
| L | E | V | E | R | ■ | A | I | S | L | E | ■ | L | E | E |
| F | R | E | N | C | H | T | O | A | S | T | ■ | I | N | N |
| S | E | P | ■ | H | U | T | T | ■ | ■ | R | A | F | T | S |
| ■ | ■ | B | E | L | G | I | A | N | W | A | F | F | L | E |
| E | M | I | L | Y | ■ | ■ | C | A | R | I | B | ■ | ■ | ■ |
| S | O | T | S | ■ | P | U | T | S | I | N | ■ | P | I | T |
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9/17/02

# ENTERTAINM

*Editor* **Louie C. Camino**

# 'Bakat' acceptable, well done–CBCP

NO X for "Bakat" stars Diana Zubiri and Rodel Velayo.

**By Blanche S. Rivera**

GLAD to be proven wrong.

For a change, the Catholic Bishops Conference of the Philippines has rated as "morally acceptable" and "well done" a sexy flick.

Zenaida Rotea, executive secretary of the CBCP's Catholic Initiative for Enlightened Movie Appreciation (Cinema), said she was happy that the body's initial impression of "Bakat" was changed after its members viewed the 90-minute movie.

Rotea said that Cinema staff and film critics were pleasantly surprised that the sex scenes in "Bakat" were not lewd and wanton but gave important insight into the characters.

Renowned writer Lualhati Bautista wrote the screenplay of "Bakat," which stars "bold" stars Diana Zubiri, Rodel Velayo and Ana Capri and character actress Rita Avila.

"When we heard the title, we immediately thought it would be another entirely obscene and uselessly sexy movie, but it was different because of the issues it presented," Cinema said in its review.

Cinema, which is under the CBCP Office on Women, does weekly reviews of mainstream movies and distributes Cinema pamphlets to parishes and Catholic schools for free.

While it gave "Bakat" the thumbs-up and an above-average rating of the movie's technical aspects, Cinema had rejected another bold flick, "Laman," which it said was a typical sexy flick trying to make the plot an excuse to show bed scenes.

The Catholic Church is openly crusading against films that highlight violence and sex but not the moral of the story. It is believed to be influential among schools and even the government.

# Wise, comforting advice from Walter Cronkite

**VIEWFINDER**

*Nestor U. Torre*

JUST in the nick of time, broadcasting legend **Walter Cronkite** appeared on TV last week, a few days before the anniversary of the terrorist attacks last year on the World Trade Center and the Pentagon.

He was asked to share some comforting thoughts on the traumatic tragedy with millions of viewers worldwide, and the 85-year-old sage rose marvelously to the occasion:

"We can find the strength we need in our history," he said. "In the past, we have overcome some terrible blows to the future of democracy. The civil war divided the nation, we had to deal with the huge problem of racism. So, we know that we have what it takes to triumph over this latest test."

How had people's lives and attitude changed after 9-11? "There is deep concern, watchfulness, acceptance of continuing danger. The oceans no longer protect us from invasion, and we don't feel as free as we used to. But we must move on."

People are trying to understand why terrorists hate the United States so much. What was his take on this question.

"It's bigger than we think. It's part of the worldwide and ongoing revolution of the poor and deprived against the rich."

Was 9-11 the worst thing to happen to the United States in the last 100 years? "Just about. We've had other crises—Pearl Harbor, the assassination of **John F. Kennedy**, the Vietnam War—but most of them primarily involved in the military. On the other hand, with 9-11, there were no norms, and the victims were defenseless civilians."

Did he agree with President **(George) Bush** that Iraq should be bombed? "The issue has to be discussed more openly. Before action is taken, a strong effort must be made to get the American people and other countries to support the initiative."

What did he feel should be done to achieve this? "The issues and agenda should be open, not hidden. And there should be more extensive media coverage, and more substantial analysis of those issues.

Did he think the terrorists would strike again? "Without inside information, we can only surmise. But we can go beyond that, by understanding the dangers that confront the world today, so we can prepare and defend ourselves, and not cower in the dark.

Did he feel that news media organizations were sufficiently critical of the administration's policies and moves in this area? "Yes."

On the 9-11 commemoration coverage, should graphic shots of WTC's twin towers under attack be shown? "This is a difficult call to make. On one hand, we have to be respectful of the feelings of the victims and their families. On the other, we need to remember the horror, in order to steel our resolve. I think a good balance would be to show the destruction selectively, just for viewers to be reminded."

Some networks were planning whole-day coverages. What did he think of this? "No, that's too long, it will make viewers weary."

In his six decades in the news business, what were the biggest news stories he covered? "Aside from the events already mentioned, what stand out are the landing of man on the moon, the decision to drop the atom bomb on Hiroshima and Nagasaki, and the civil rights struggle."

Cronkite may be an octogenarian, but he still leads an active and productive life, and continues to be respected and loved by millions. He travels all over the world to fulfill speaking engagements, he accepts honorary degrees, and he has voiced the lines of **Benjamin Franklin** for an animated series for young viewers. He's an inspiration to many people—of whatever age!

## Eddie Murphy on the moon

IN "Pluto Nash," star comic **Eddie Murphy** finally gets to fulfill his dream of going out in space--even if only in the movies. It's the year 2087, and nightclub owner Murphy finds himself in big trouble when he refuses to sell his club on the moon to a tough gangster (**Joe Pantoliano**).

Joining Nash in standing up to the gangster are a beautiful singer (**Rosario Dawson**), a robot bodyguard (**Randy Quaid**), a pool shark (**Peter Boyle**), Murphy's mother (**Pam Grier**), and an Italian singing sensation (**Jay Mohr**). Together, they also fight to foil a mysterious villain's plan to take over the moon.

# The height of tackiness

**DOLLY WOOD**

*Dolly Ann Carvajal*

AS a child of show business, I have seen user-friendly people pop in and out of the scene, hangers-on who are fit to be hung for their blatant manipulation of the lives of stars.

But I have also come to believe the show biz saying that you should be kind to the people you meet on your way up because they are the same people you'll meet on your way down.

But what about those leeches who swarm around you when you make it big? Like this shrewd businesswoman who is such a con artist. I was floored when a show biz insider told me about her modus operandi.

On the first meeting, she will go to great lengths to please the stars. She showers them with goodies from her shop and gets a kick out of being greeted on the air by her latest star prey.

One celebrity got the shock of her life when she realized that the signature item that the businesswoman gave her was fake. Other celebrities may not yet be aware that the goods she makes them endorse are cheap imitations. There's nothing wrong in not being able to afford to buy original designer stuff but to pass it off as authentic is the height of tackiness.

Suppliers of various signature brands have refused to send her new stocks because she owes them a fortune.

Wonder what it will take for her to stop her scheming ways? How long will she fake it until she makes it? Celebrities beware!

Show biz is a make-believe world all right, but you must not advertise what you don't have for sale!

## Cine Europa5

I THOROUGHLY enjoyed having lunch with my jolly friend from the French Embassy, **Martin Macalintal**. It was fun meeting new friends, **Maurits ter Kuile** of the Dutch Embassy, **Jeroen Vergeylen** of the Belgian Embassy and **Alvaro Azcarate** of the Spanish Embassy. Being around them makes me recall the days when I had a taste of a diplomat's life during my grandfather's stint as ambassador to Korea (It was his death anniversary last Saturday, so please allow me to say how much I miss "Nich").

The dashing gentlemen told me about the upcoming Cine Europa 5 film festival, organized by the Delegation of the European Commission and the Embassies of the European Union in partnership with Shangri-La Plaza Mall.

Featuring 10 films from many of the 15 countries of the EU, Cine Europa kicks off at Cinema 1 in Shangri-La Mall on Friday, Sept. 20, and runs until Sept.

29. Nine of these films will go on to Cebu, where Cine Europa will return to the Ayala center on Oct. 2-4.

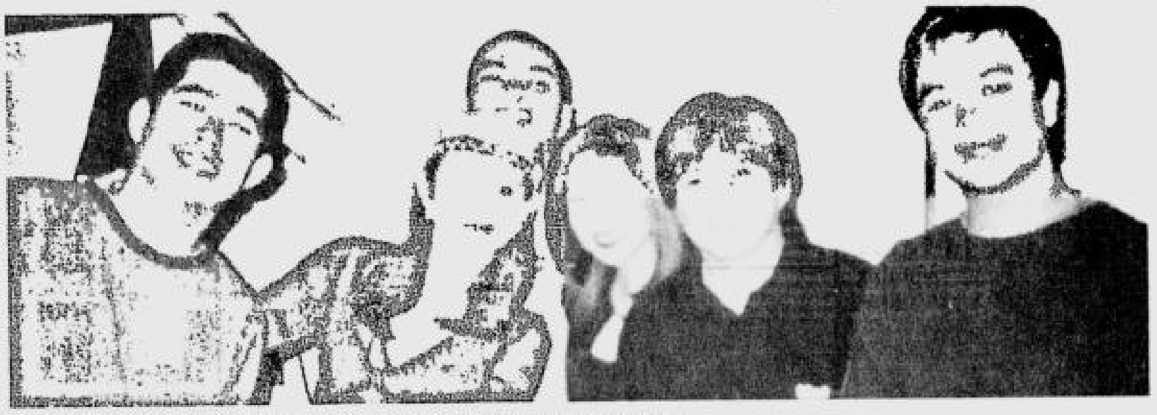
Admission is free.

This year's festival has something for everybody: mixed-up births in Austria, a woman trapped in a little Belgian boy's body, a demanding Finnish father, a German obsessive compulsive female chef, a 30-year-old love-starved Swedish lounge pianist and an English master of disguise.

Noteworthy is the United Kingdom's romantic comedy "Crush" starring **Andie Mcdowell**. It's said to be the UK's version of "Sex in the City."

When asked if they encountered any problems with our controversial censors, Monsieur Ter Kuile chuckled, "Fortunately not!"

*For feedback, e-mail friends_at_dsquare-@yahoo.com*



FREESTYLE with lawyer Dot Ramos Gancayco and Batch Hernandez.

# Freestyle invades Naga anew

**SHOWS**

FREESTYLE, the hottest band in the country today, will perform in a concert at 7:30 p.m. on Sept. 21 at the University of Nueva Caceres Sports Palace in Naga City.

Freestyle is expected to take Bicolanos by storm in the concert for the Peñafrancia fiesta.

The show is mounted by Urpartyedge Inc., headed by lawyer Dot Gancayco and Batch Hernandez, with the city government of Naga led by Mayor Jesse M. Robredo.

The concert is also supported by Camarines Sur Governor Luis R. Villafuerte.

Proceeds will go to the Help Learning Center. For tickets, call 523-8268 (Manila) or 811-7701/811-2009 in Naga.

## Suburbia

GIMMICK seekers are in for a treat this week as two of the hottest bands perform at Suburbia Malate on Wednesday Sept. 18.

7th Soul dishes out soothing and relaxing music, while Freestyle will heat up the stage with the best of pop and R&B grooves plus loads of their original tunes.

Also at Suburbia for the rest of the month are Manila's premier band Side A on Mondays, hip and young band Synch-O on Tuesdays and Barbie's Cradle on Thursdays.

A special treat await all Barbie's Cradle fans because Suburbia will waive the minimum consumable charge for all college students with valid school ID's.

Weekends feature twice the fun and entertainment with Escape and Mulatto on Fridays and Elements and Freeverse on Saturdays.

7th Soul returns to Suburbia for a special show with South Border, Sept. 25. For reservations, call 450-1685 to 86.

## 'Crossover Live'

105.1 Crossover's monthly musical presentation "Crossover Live," which features Manila's best bands in special performances at the hippest venues all over the country, is back this month with a special presentation featuring Fat Session at Hard Rock Café in Makati, Thursday Sept. 19, 9 p.m.

Hard Rock Café will teem with the best '70s and retro music with Fat Session grooving up the energy with engaging tunes from music icons such as Carpenters, Carole King and Diana Ross.

## 'Out of the Ashes'

THE BREAD of Life Ministries and the Utmost Team fuse the old and the new in a special two-day concert, "Tux and Jeans II: Out of the Ashes," Sept. 19 and 20 at the Crossroad 77 Convenarium (cor. Mother Ignacia Ave. and Scout Reyes Streets, Quezon City), 8 p.m.

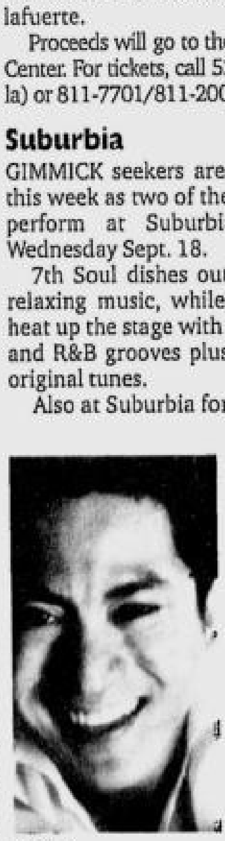
The concert's all-star ensemble includes world-class tenor Robert Seña, soul queen Bituin Escalante, jazz diva Lynn Sherman, theater veteran Sheila Francisco, world music advocate Cynthia Alexander, rocker Butch Montejo, classical singers Eladio Pamaran and Jonathan Badon, Airdance, The Manoeuvres and the Pundaquit Virtuosi String Ensemble (tutored by violin virtuoso Coke Bolipata).

Backing up the powerhouse cast is the versatile Ugoy-Ugoy band led by keyboardist Bond Samson, with Toti Fuentes as musical director.

The concert was envisioned as an attempt to educate the general public with the refreshing synergy of the various music genres.

Proceeds of the show will go to the completion of the second and third floors of the Crossroad 77 Building. Tickets are available at the gate.

Call 372-9233.

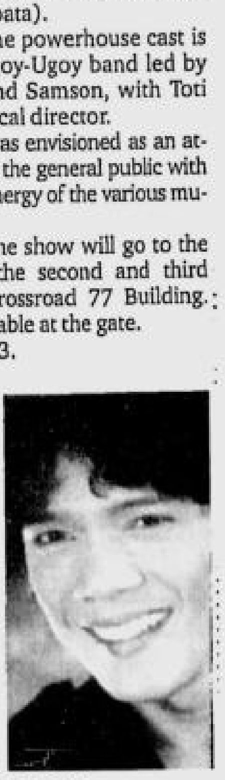


SEÑA

PAMARAN

FRANCISCO

MONTEJO



BADON

ArtFilm Greenbelt 1
AYALA CINEMAS
The 4th Israeli Film Festival

Sept.19 (Thu)
Clean Sweep 2:00
Kippur 4:30
Growing Pains 7:00
The Policeman 9:30

Sept.20 (Fri)
The Policeman 11:30
Don't Give a Damn 2:00
Late Marriage 4:30
Total Love 7:00
Yana's Friends 9:30

Sept.21 (Sat)
Growing Pains 11:30
Yana's Friends 2:00
Clean Sweep 4:30
Kippur 7:00
Late Marriage 9:30

Sept.22 (Sun)
Total Love 11:30
Late Marriage 2:00
Yana's Friends 4:30
Don't Give a Damn 7:00
Clean Sweep 9:30

Sept.23 (Mon)
Total Love 2:30
Don't Give a Damn 4:30
The Policeman 7:00
Kippur 9:30

Sept.23 (Mon)
Growing Pains 2:30
The Policeman 4:30
Clean Sweep 7:00
Don't Give a Damn 9:30

Sept.23 (Mon)
Kippur 2:30
Late Marriage 4:30
Total Love 7:00
Yana's Friends 9:30

For screening times, call 729-7777
Schedules are subject to change without prior notice.

# AYALA CINEMAS NOW SHOWING

**G1 GLORIETTA 1**

| | |
|---|---|
| | REIGN OF FIRE |
| 2 | THE BOURNE IDENTITY |
| 3 | LAMAN |
| 4 | JOLOGS |

**G4 GLORIETTA 4**

| | |
|---|---|
| | REIGN OF FIRE |
| 2 | SIMONE |
| 3 | THE BOURNE IDENTITY 12:30, 3:00, 5:30, 8:00, 10:30 |
| 4 | SIGNS |
| 5 | REVELATION |
| 6 | AUSTIN POWERS IN GOLDMEMBER |
| 7 | DIVINE SECRETS OF THE YA-YA SISTERHOOD |

**GB1 GREENBELT 1**

HAPPY TIMES (Exclusive)

AN AMERICAN RHAPSODY (EXCLUSIVE)

onstage
GARY V.HITS ONSTAGE
SEPT. 20, 27, & 28
8:30 PM

**GB3 GREENBELT 3**

| | |
|---|---|
| | REIGN OF FIRE 12:30, 2:40, 4:50, 7:00, 9:10, 11:20 |
| | THE BOURNE IDENTITY 10:50, 1:20, 3:50, 6:20, 8:50, 11:20 |
| 3 | SIGNS 12:40, 2:50, 5:00, 7:10, 9:20, 11:30 |
| 4 | DIVINE SECRETS OF THE YA-YA SISTERHOOD 1:30, 4:00, 6:30, 9:00, 11:30 |
| | SIMONE 11:00, 1:30, 4:00, 6:30, 9:00, 11:30 |

**ATC ALABANG TOWN CENTER**

| | |
|---|---|
| | REIGN OF FIRE |
| 2 | DIVINE SECRETS OF THE YA-YA SISTERHOOD |
| 3 | THE BOURNE IDENTITY |
| 4 | SIMONE |
| 5 | SIGNS |

Reserve your seats by texting "SURESEATS G4 (or any Ayala Cinemas) and send to 2333. Or log on to www.sureseats.com. *GSC: Guaranteed Seats Cinema

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# MMTA
METRO MANILA THEATERS ASSOCIATION

# MOVIE GUIDE
## NOW SHOWING
EMAIL: mmta@asia.com

### Filinvest FESTIVAL CINEMA
(Muntinlupa) tel 850.3571 or 72

| | |
|---|---|
| 1 (DOLBY) | BOURNE IDENTITY |
| 2 (SDDS) | REIGN OF FIRE |
| 3 (DTS) | SIGNS |
| 4 GOLD(DTS) | DIVINE SECRETS.. |
| 5 GOLD(DOLBY) | REVELATION |
| 6 GOLD(SDDS) | SIMONE |
| 7 GOLD(DOLBY) | REIGN OF FIRE |
| 8 | LAMAN |
| 9 | AUSTIN POWER-3 |
| 10 | JOLOGS |

### Pearl Plaza Cinemas
(Parañaque) tel. 853.4486

| | |
|---|---|
| 1 | |
| 2 | |
| 3 (DTS) | |
| 4 | |
| 5 | |
| 6 (DTS) | |
| Golden Pearl THX | |

### Masagana CINEMA 1 2 & 3
(Pasay) tel 833 7700 833 7774
TEL. 551 63 87

| | |
|---|---|
| 1 | LAMAN |
| 2 | REIGN OF FIRE |
| 3 | HIGH RISK |

### starmall Movies
(Shaw Blvd.) tel 724.4986

| | |
|---|---|
| 1 | BOURNE IDENTITY |
| 2 | HIGH RISK |
| 3 | LAMAN |
| 4 (DOLBY DIGITAL) | REIGN OF FIRE |
| 5 | BAKAT |

### METROPOLIS star
tel 850.4285

| | |
|---|---|
| 1 | JOLOGS |
| 2 | BAKAT |
| 3 | LAMAN |
| 4 | REIGN OF FIRE |
| 5 | SIMONE |
| 6 | DIVINE MERCY |
| 7 | |
| 8 | |

### PREMIERE CINEMA THX
(Makati City) tel 751.2010 to13
REIGN OF FIRE
SEPTEMBER 11,12 - TIME 5.50, 8.00, 10.10 PM. SEPT 4:30 PM.
PREMIER OF ROAD TO PERDITION
TIME 7:15 PM
SEPTEMBER 14, 15 - REIGN OF FIRE
TIME 4.30 6.40 8.50 PM

### Center Plaza Cinema
(Balanga, Bataan) tel (047) 237.7007

| | |
|---|---|
| 1 | JOLOGS |
| 2 | TRIPLE X |

### FCM FAIRVIEW CENTER MALL, INC
tel 930.9515

| | |
|---|---|
| 1 | |
| 2 | |
| 3 | |

### Sunshine
(FTI, Taguig) tel 838.4301 loc. 3376

| | |
|---|---|
| 1 | REIGN OF FIRE |
| 2 | LAMAN |
| 3 | BAKAT |
| 4 | HIGH RISK |

### GOTESCO CINEMA

**Gotesco City**
(Manila) tel 734.8588

| | |
|---|---|
| 1 (SDDS) | REIGN OF FIRE |
| 4 | LAMAN |
| 5 | REVELATION |
| 6 | JOLOGS |
| 7 (DTS) | DIVINE SECRET .. |
| 8 (SDDS) | BOURNE IDENTITY |
| 9 (DOLBY) | SIMONE |

**Gotesco Caloocan**
tel 362.3508

| | |
|---|---|
| 2 | RESERVE |

**Gotesco Grand Central**
(Caloocan) tel 365.7928

| | |
|---|---|
| 1 | LAMAN |
| 2 | JOLOGS |
| 3 | BAKAT |
| 4 (SDDS) | REIGN OF FIRE |
| 5 | BOURNE IDENTITY |
| 6 (DOLBY) | REIGN OF FIRE |
| 7 (DTS) | HIGH RISK |
| 8 | DIVINE SECRETS .. |
| 9 | GAMITAN |

**Gotesco Commonwealth**
tel 951.0082

| | |
|---|---|
| 4 | LAMAN |
| 5 (SDDS) | REIGN OF FIRE |
| 6 (DTS) | DIVINE SECRET ... |
| 7 (DOLBY) | BOURNE IDENTITY |
| 8 | HIGH RISK |

**Gotesco Ortigas**
tel 656.6795

| | |
|---|---|
| 1 | BOURNE IDENTITY |
| 2 | SIMONE |
| 3 (DTS) | DIVINE SECRET ... |
| 4 | LAMAN |
| 5 (SDDS) | REIGN OF FIRE |

### Universal
(Manila) tel 733.2470

| | |
|---|---|
| 1 | LAMAN |

### Sampaguita
(Cubao) tel 911.7888

| | |
|---|---|
| 1 | LAMAN |

### Dilson
(Manila) tel 734.7724

| | |
|---|---|
| Dilson | LIGAYA PANTASYA NG BAYAN |
| Lords | LAMAN |
| Jennet | RESERVE |

### MARKETPLACE
Mandaluyong tel 533.3851, 533.3856

| | |
|---|---|
| 1 | REIGN OF FIRE |
| 2 | LAMAN |
| 3 | UNFAITHFUL |

### Isetann Cinerama Complex Recto SUPER CINERAMA
tel 733.4238

| | |
|---|---|
| 1 (DOLBY) | REIGN OF FIRE |
| 2 | DIVINE SECRET ... |
| 3 | RESERVE |
| 4 | LAMAN |
| 5 | RESERVE |

### FRC Cinema
(Talaba Bacoor Cavite)

| | |
|---|---|
| 1 | RESERVE |
| 2 | RESERVE |

### Berma Cinema
(Baclaran) tel 879.2030 / 879.2029

| | |
|---|---|
| 1 | REIGN OF FIRE |
| 2 | GAMITAN |

THE CENTER OF ENTERTAINMENT
Araneta

### Ali MALL CINEPLEX 7
tel 911.3101 loc. 821,8242,8400

| | |
|---|---|
| 1 | JOLOGS |
| 2 | LAMAN |
| 3 (DOLBY DIGITAL) | BOURNE IDENTITY |
| 4 (SDDS) | REIGN OF FIRE |
| 5 (DTS) | DIVINE SECRET .. |
| 6 | SIMONE |
| 7 | SIGNS |

### Farmers Plaza CINEMAS
tel 911.3101 loc. 821,8242,8400

| | |
|---|---|
| 1 | LAMAN |
| 2 | REIGN OF FIRE |

### CINEMA 2000

**Cinema 2000 Target Mall**
(Sta. Rosa Laguna)
tel (049) 534.2185 / 534.2198

| | |
|---|---|
| 1 | LAMAN |
| 2 | JOLOGS |
| 3 (DTS) | REIGN OF FIRE |

**Cinema 2000 Waltermart**
(Calamba) tel (049) 545.7983

| | |
|---|---|
| 1 | JOLOGS |
| 2 (DTS) | BOURNE IDENTITY |
| 3 (DOLBY) | REIGN OF FIRE |
| 4 | LAMAN |

**Cinema 2000 Pavilion Mall**
(Biñan) tel (049) 411.1146

| | |
|---|---|
| 1 | JOLOGS |
| 2 (DOLBY) | REIGN OF FIRE |
| 3 (DTS) | BOURNE IDENTITY |
| 4 | LAMAN |

**Cinema 2000 Cinemagix**
(Urdaneta) tel(075) 568.6771

| | |
|---|---|
| 1 | JOLOGS |
| 2 | UNFAITHFUL |
| 3 | BOURNE IDENTITY |
| 4 | |

**Cinema 2000 MetroTown**
(Tarlac) tel(045) 982.1729

| | |
|---|---|
| 1 | LAMAN |
| 2 | SIGNS |
| 3 (DOLBY) | BOURNE IDENTITY |
| 4 (DTS) | UNFAITHFUL |

### Magic Star Cinema
(Tarlac City) tel (045) 611.4305

| | |
|---|---|
| 1 | SIGNS |
| 2 | BOURNE IDENTITY |
| 3 | LAMAN |

### Lianas Cinema
(Alabang) tel 850.1276

| | |
|---|---|
| 1 | REIGN OF FIRE |
| 2 | ROSARIO 18 |
| 3 | STRIP SHOW |
| 4 | |

### Lianas MovieCity
(Calamba) tel (049) 545.7202

| | |
|---|---|
| 1 (DOLBY) | REIGN OF FIRE |
| 2 | LAMAN |
| 3 (DTS) | MORE PANTS IN THE ANTS |
| 4 | JOLOGS |
| 5 | BAKAT |

### Olivarez Tri-Cinema
(Biñan) tel (049) 511.8883

| | |
|---|---|
| 1 | REIGN OF FIRE |
| 2 | LAMAN |
| 3 | KILLING ME SOFTLY |

### Olivarez Los Baños
tel (049) 249.2558

| | |
|---|---|
| 1 | LAMAN |
| 2 | REIGN OF FIRE |
| 3 | KILLING ME SOFTLY |

### Mega Center Mall
(Cabanatuan City) tel (044) 463.3233

| | |
|---|---|
| 1 | SIGNS |
| 2 | UNFAITHFUL |
| 3 | JOLOGS |
| 4 | GAMITAN |

### Cabuyao
(Laguna City) tel (049) 531.4808

| | |
|---|---|
| 1 (DTS) | INFAITHFUL |
| 2 (DTS) | RESERVE |

### Emperor
(Rosario Cavite) tel (046) 438.1657

| | |
|---|---|
| 1 | BAKAT |
| 2 | JOLOGS |
| 3 | BOURNE IDENTITY |

### Fiesta World Mall
(Lipa) tel (043) 981.0790

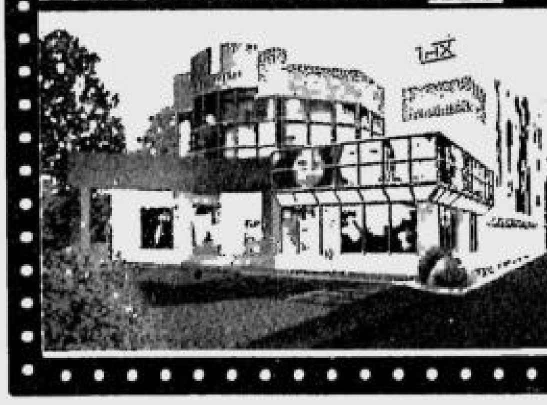
| | |
|---|---|
| 1 | SIGNS |
| 2 | AUSTIN POWER-3 |
| 3 | SPIRIT |
| 4 | BAKAT |

### Jade Cinema
(Angeles City) tel (045) 887.5001 to 03

| | |
|---|---|
| 1 (DOLBY) | BOURNE IDENTITY |
| 2 | HIGH RISK |
| 3 (DTS) | REIGN OF FIRE |
| 4 | DERAILED |

*Movies are subject to change without prior notice.

ADVANCED SCREENING THX DOLBY dts SDDS



PREMIERE CINEMA NOW SHOWING
5:00 PM, 7:30PM, 9:45PM
REIGN OF FIRE

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# SM CINEMA
SM Dial-A-Movie Tel. 633-9999
## NOW SHOWING

### SM CITY BACOOR
4173888

| | |
|---|---|
| 1 | SIMONE |
| 2 | HIGH RISK |
| 3 | REIGN OF FIRE |
| 4 | DIVINE SECRETS... |
| 5 | THE BOURNE IDENTITY |
| 6 | JOLOGS |
| 7 | LAMAN |
| 8 | SIGNS |

### SM CENTERPOINT
7149622 -7181416

| | |
|---|---|
| 1 | REVELATION |
| 2 | SIMONE |
| 3 | REIGN OF FIRE |
| 4 | LAMAN |
| 5 | THE BOURNE IDENTITY |
| 6 | JOLOGS |
| 7 | SIGNS |
| 8 | DIVINE SECRETS... |
| 9 | AUSTIN POWERS |
| 10 | HIGH RISK |

### SM CITY FAIRVIEW
9350749

| | |
|---|---|
| 1 | SIMONE |
| 2 | DIVINE SECRETS |
| 3 | LAMAN |
| 4 | THE BOURNE IDENTITY |
| 5 | JOLOGS |
| 6 | HIGH RISK |
| 7 | REIGN OF FIRE |
| 8 | REVELATION |
| 9 | AUSTIN POWERS |
| 10 | SIGNS |
| 11 | TRIPLE X |
| 12 | BAKAT |

### SM CITY MANILA
5239240

| | |
|---|---|
| 1 | THE BOURNE IDENTITY |
| 2 | SIMONE |
| 3 | DIVINE SECRETS... |
| 4 | REIGN OF FIRE |
| 5 | SIGNS |
| 6 | REIGN OF FIRE |
| 7 | REVELATION |
| 8 | AUSTIN POWERS |
| 9 | JOLOGS |
| 10 | TRIPLE X |
| 11 | HIGH RISK |
| 12 | LAMAN |

### SM MEGAMALL
6331601 • 6329401

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|---|---|
| 1 | REIGN OF FIRE |
| 2 | AUSTIN POWER |
| 3 | BOURNE IDENTITY |
| 4 | REIGN OF FIRE |
| 5 | SIMONE |
| 6 | REVELATION |
| 7 | DIVINE SECRETS... |
| 8 | TRIPLE X |
| 9 | JOLOGS |
| 10 | SIGNS |
| 11 | LAMAN |
| 12 | HIGH RISK |

### SM CITY NORTH EDSA
9295452

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|---|---|
| 1 | REVELATION |
| 2 | SIGNS |
| 3 | LAMAN |
| 4 | JOLOGS |
| 5 | DIVINE SECRETS... |
| 6 | SIMONE |
| 7 | THE BOURNE IDENTITY |
| 8 | REIGN OF FIRE |

### SM SOUTHMALL
8066888

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|---|---|
| 1 | DIVINE SECRETS... |
| 2 | REVELATION |
| 3 | REIGN OF FIRE |
| 4 | SIMONE |
| 5 | HIGH RISK |
| 6 | AUSTIN POWERS |
| 7 | JOLOGS |
| 8 | THE BOURNE IDENTITY |
| 9 | SIGNS |
| 10 | LAMAN |

### SM CITY CEBU
2313878

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|---|---|
| 1 | SWEETEST THING |
| 2 | SIGNS |
| 3 | DERAILED |
| 4 | ALL ABOUT THE BENJAMINS |
| 5 | LAMAN |
| 6 | BAKAT |
| 7 | JOLOGS |
| 8 | THE BOURNE IDENTITY |

### SM CITY ILOILO
3209422

| | |
|---|---|
| 1 | MORE ANTS IN THE PANTS |
| 2 | CLOSED |
| 3 | INSOMNIA |
| 4 | LAMAN |
| 5 | SIGNS |
| 6 | THE BOURNE IDENTITY |
| 7 | CLOSED |
| 8 | SEX & ZEN |

### SM CITY PAMPANGA
7128015

| | |
|---|---|
| 1 | REIGN OF FIRE |
| 2 | INSOMNIA |
| 3 | THE BOURNE IDENTITY |
| 4 | JOLOGS |
| 5 | DERAILED |
| 6 | LAMAN |

### SM SUPER CTR. SUCAT
8294975

| | |
|---|---|
| 1 | LAMAN |
| 2 | THE BOURNE IDENTITY |
| 3 | REIGN OF FIRE |
| 4 | JOLOGS |

### SM CINEMA TUTUBAN
2514302

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|---|---|
| 1 | REIGN OF FIRE |
| 2 | LAMAN |
| 3 | JOLOGS |
| 4 | REVELATION |

### SM CITY DAVAO
2976998

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|---|---|
| 1 | THE BOURNE IDENTITY |
| 2 | JOLOGS |
| 3 | SEX & ZEN |
| 4 | LAMAN |
| 5 | UNFAITHFUL |
| 6 | SIGNS |

### SM BICUTAN

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|---|---|
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### SM CITY CAGAYAN DE ORO

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| | |
|---|---|
| 1 | CLOSED FOR RENOVATION |
| 2 | REIGN OF FIRE<br>11:40 FS/12:10 MF/2:20/4:30/6:40/8:50/ 10:30 LFS/11:00 LMF/12:40 END |

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|---|---|
| 1 THX | REIGN OF FIRE |
| 2 | REIGN OF FIRE |
| 3 | DIVINE SECRETS... |
| 4 | SIMONE |
| 5 | LAMAN |
| 6 | BOURNE IDENTITY |
| 7 | SIGNS |
| 8 | KWENTONG KAYUMANGGI ANIMATION FESTIVAL |
| 9 | KWENTONG KAYUMANGGI ANIMATION FESTIVAL (AM)/AUSTIN POWERS 3(PM) |
| 10 | REVELATION |

### Ermita
536 -7809- 12

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|---|---|
| 1 | REIGN OF FIRE |
| 2 | BOURNE IDENTITY |
| 3 | JOLOGS |
| 4 | REVELATION |
| 5 | LAMAN |
| 6 | SIMONE |
| 7 | DIVINE SECRETS... |

### Metro East - Marcos Hway
682-8193 / 8780

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|---|---|
| 1 | DIVINE SECRETS... |
| 2 | REIGN OF FIRE |
| 3 | AUSTIN POWERS 3 |
| 4 | BOURNE IDENTITY |
| 5 | SIMONE |
| 6 | LAMAN |
| 7 | SIGNS |
| 8 | JOLOGS |

### Novaliches
935 3229 30

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|---|---|
| 1 | REIGN OF FIRE |
| 2 | DIVINE SECRETS... |
| 3 | JOLOGS |
| 4 | BOURNE IDENTITY |
| 5 | SIGNS |
| 6 | SIMONE |
| 7 | LAMAN |
| 8 | REVELATION |

### Imus
471-8188 / 875-3838

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|---|---|
| 1 | REIGN OF FIRE |
| 2 | BOURNE IDENTITY |
| 3 | LAMAN |
| 4 | DIVINE SECRETS... |
| 5 | JOLOGS |
| 6 | SIMONE |

### Bacolod
441-0453 / 0459

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|---|---|
| 1 | SIGNS |
| 2 | UNFAITHFUL |
| 3 | JOLOGS |
| 4 | BOURNE IDENTITY |
| 5 | GAMITAN |
| 6 | BIGLANG LIKO |

### Iloilo
336-8077-78

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|---|---|
| 1 | BOURNE IDENTITY |
| 2 | SIGNS |
| 3 | MORE ANTS IN THE PANTS |
| 4 | INSOMIA |
| 5 | LAMAN |
| 6 | SEX & ZEN |

### Star Mills-
875-1927
901 5318 / 5270

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|---|---|
| 1 | BOURNE IDENTITY |
| 2 | REIGN OF FIRE |
| 3 | DERAILED |
| 4 | LAMAN |
| 5 | INSOMIA |
| 6 | REIGN OF FIRE |

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# City Lite 88.3 launches pop-jazz compilation album

MANILA'S only Smooth Jazz Radio City Lite 88.3 marked yet another milestone with the help of Warner Music Philippines.

The launch of City Lite's new compilation, "Pop Jazz," was recently celebrated at Strumm's in El Pueblo in Ortigas.

The venue was packed with the station's many friends and fans that wined, dined and swooned to the smooth tracks lifted from the sampler and performed live by the Big.

The release is a cool concoction of contemporary pop hits with smooth jazz blends taken from City Lite 88.3's radio playlist.

With 15 tracks and over 70 minutes of soothing music, the album features a select roster of jazz pros that include David Sanborn, Bryan Culbertson, Kirk Whalum and Fourplay.

The CD also includes some of pop's most familiar tunes like Joe's "I Wanna Know" and Janet Jackson's "That's the Way Love Goes."

When asked about their latest project, Pinky Aseron, City Lite 88.3's station manager, remarks, "It is our pleasure to share this compilation of the smoothest pop-jazz selections which reflect City Lite 88.3 FM through the years. This sampler contains choice cuts, pleasantly blending the classics with the new. It definitely makes good company during those long drives or quiet evenings with friends."

# Mitch holds one-night concert in Cebu City

VETERAN entertainer Mitch Valdez always brings the house down in all her performances here and abroad. She has performed all over Asia and wowed international audiences in New York, Los Angeles and San Francisco in United States, Vancouver and Toronto in Canada, in European countries that include London, Germany, Madrid and Athens.

Be ready to be mesmerized as Mitch goes to Cebu for a one-night only music and comedy event, "Mitchmerizing," Sept. 20, 8 p.m. at the Visayas Ballroom of Cebu Plaza Hotel.

The show will also showcase the singing prowess of Joy Viado. "Mitchmerizing" guarantees a night of good music, and humor. Stage direction by Del Pascual. For ticket inquiries and reservation, call Active Imaging at 0918-9254393 or 0917-3376905.

THEATER MOVIE GUIDE

| | |
|---|---|
| **MANILA** | |
| EASTERN | |
| MAXIM | CLOSED |
| MIRAMAR | ITLOG / HUNGER FOR LOVE |
| ODEON | REIGN OF FIRE |
| ODEON-2 | SCORPION KING / LABRADOR |
| ROBEN | BAKAT |
| TANDEM-1 | SUGAT |
| TANDEM-2 | KATAWAN MO LANGIT KO |
| TIMES | BAD COMPANY / 13TH DAY |
| **QUEZON CITY** | |
| ACT-1 | SENSUAL ISLAND |
| ACT-2 | KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT |
| ACT-3 | ORIGINAL SIN |
| ACT-4 | HANGGANG KAILAN KA PAPATAY |
| CORONET-2 | HANGGANG KAILAN KA PAPATAY |
| QUEZON-1 | BAKAT |
| REMAR | BAKAT |
| REMAR-2 | GAMITAN |
| **NOVA MALL - NOVALICHES CINEMA** | |
| A | LAMAN |
| B | REIGN OF FIRE |
| C | |
| **MANDALUYONG CITY** | |
| SHANGRI-LA PLAZA MALL | 635-20-79 / 633-78-51 TO 70 |
| CINEMA-1 | DIVINE SECRETS OF THE YAYA SISTERHOOD |
| CINEMA-2 | REIGN OF FIRE |
| **CAINTA RIZAL** | |
| STA. LUCIA EAST | (681-5401 TO 19) |
| CINEMA-1 | LAMAN |
| CINEMA-2 | HIGH RISK |
| CINEMA-3 | KILLING ME SOFTLY |
| CINEMA-4 (DOLBY DIGITAL) | TRIPLE X |
| CINEMA-5 (DTS) | GAMITAN |
| CINEMA-6 | BAKAT |
| CINEMA-7 | YOUNG VIRGINS |
| CINEMA-8 | AUSTIN POWERS |
| CINEMA-9 (DTS) | REIGN OF FIRE |
| CINEMA-10 (DOLBY DIGITAL) | DIVINE SECRET OF YAYA SISTERHOOD |
| CINEMA-11 (SDDS) | REVELATION |
| CINEMA-12 | SIMONE |
| CINEMA-14 | BOURNE IDENTITY |
| CINEMA-15 | SIGNS |
| **LORES** | |
| CINEMA-2 | SENSUAL ISLAND |
| CINEMA-3 | KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT |
| **UNIWIDE METROMALL** | |
| (LAS PINAS) | |
| CINEMA-1 | |
| CINEMA-2 | |
| CINEMA-4 | |
| **UNIWIDE COASTAL MALL** | |
| (PAHANAQUE) | SENSUAL ISLAND |
| CINEMA-1 | KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT |
| CINEMA-2 | MEN IN BLACK II |
| CINEMA-4 | SELDA |

POWER PLANT CINEMA
Rockwell Center, Makati City ☎ Tel. No: 8981440-41
DOLBY DIGITAL SURROUND-EX

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| **REVELATION**<br>**R18**<br>12:20,2:40,5:00,<br>7:20,9:45 | **BOURNE IDENTITY**<br>**P13**<br>12:00,2:30,5:00,<br>7:30,10:00 | **SIMONE**<br>**P13**<br>1:05,3 15,5 25,<br>7:35,9:50 |
| **REIGN OF FIRE**<br>**P13**<br>1:30,3:35,5:40,<br>7:50,10:00 | **SIGNS**<br>**P13**<br>12:40,2 55,5:10,<br>7:25,9:40 | **DIVINE SECRET OF YA-YA SISTERHOOD**<br>**P-13**<br>12:30,2:55,5:20,<br>7:45,10:10 |

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CINEMA 1
**REIGN OF FIRE**
11:00, 1:10, 3:20,
5:30, 7:40, 10:00
**P 13**

CINEMA 2
**BOURNE IDENTITY**
12:40, 3:20,
5:55, 8:40
**P 13**

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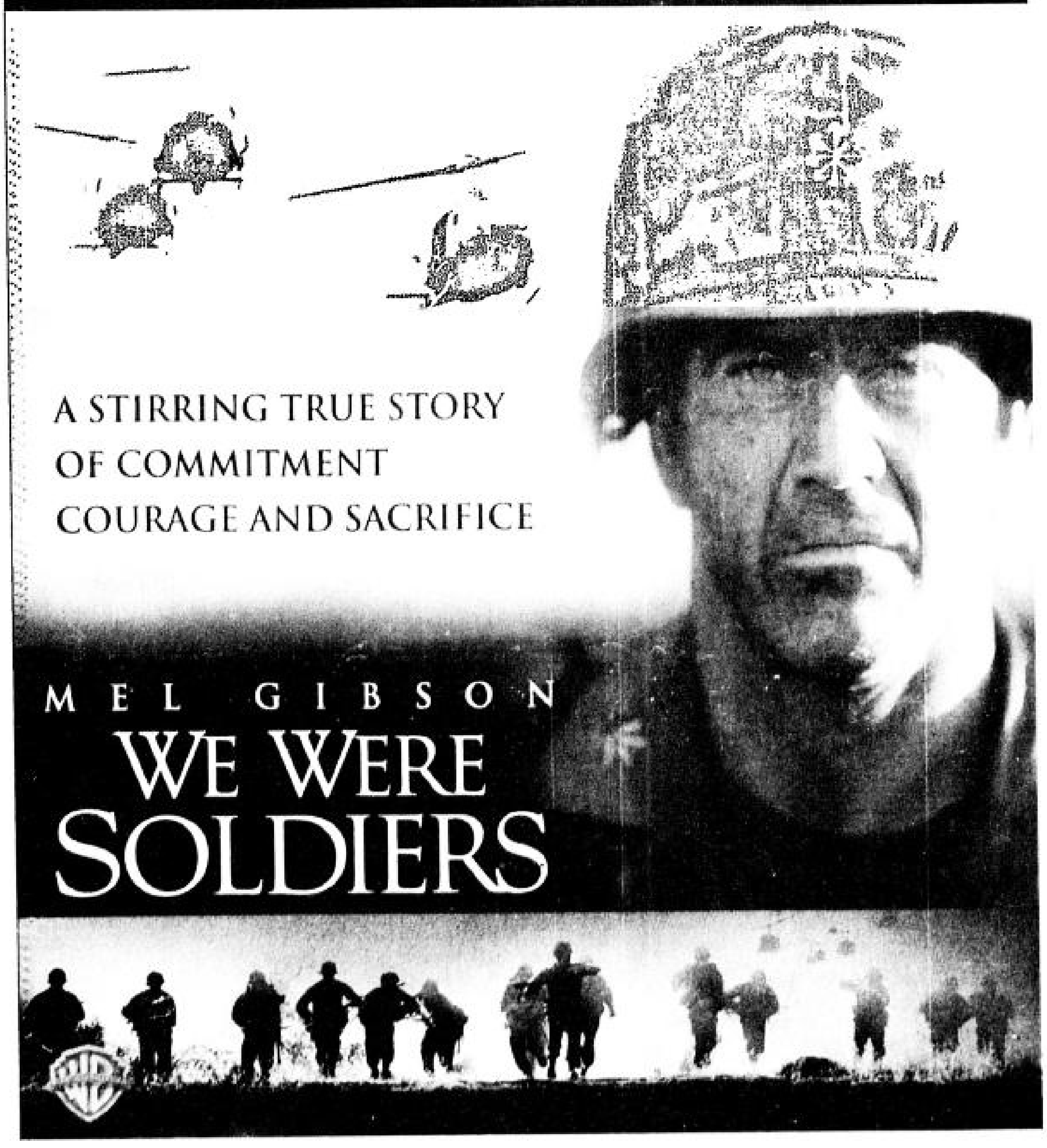
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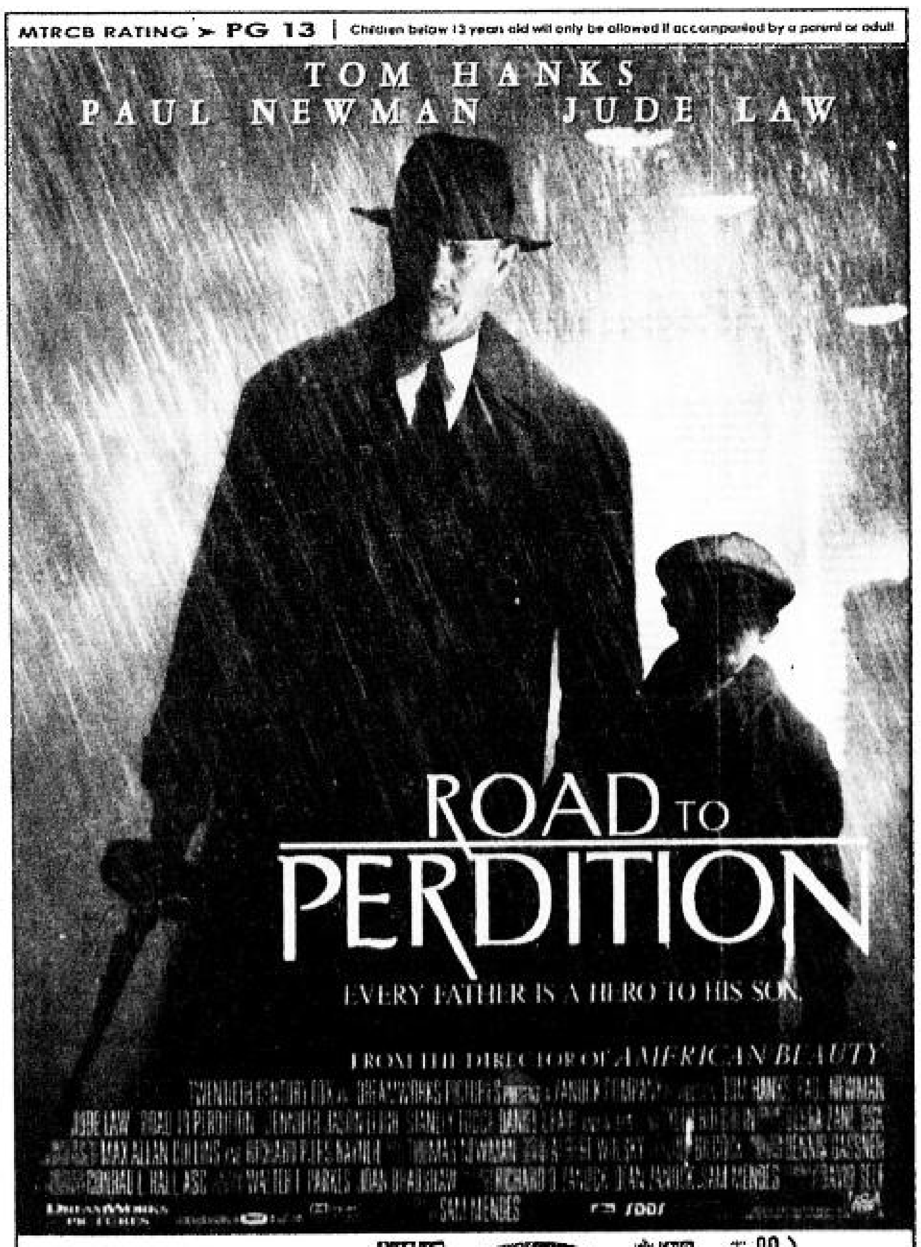
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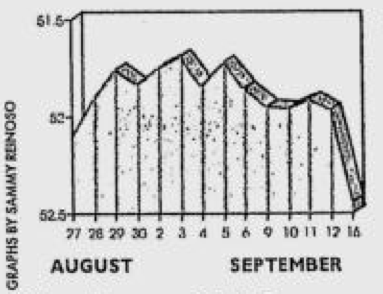
# Ayala revives interest in Boni project

## INDICATORS

### CURRENCIES

**PESO - DOLLAR**



**PESO-DOLLAR RATE**

P52.440 = $1
As of 5 p.m., Sept. 16, 2002

Y120.04 = $1
As of 5 p.m., Sept. 12, 2002

GOLD: $315.80/316.30
per ounce Hong Kong, Sept. 16, 2002

### Stocks end higher

STOCKS ended slightly higher yesterday on selected buying of blue chips, including food and beverage giant San Miguel Corp. and mall developer SM Prime Holdings, traders said.

The 33-share composite index ended up 4.63 points, or 0.4 percent, at 1,160.12 points. For the year, the main index was down 0.68 percent.

Value turnover thinned to P175.27 million, the fourth lowest this year as most traders and fund managers attended a road show of the Philippine Stock Exchange.

Gainers and losers were almost equal at 20 to 18 while the prices of 41 issues were unchanged. *Reuters*

By Doris C. Dumlao

**PROPERTY giant Ayala Land Inc. yesterday said it was in talks with the Campos group of United Laboratories and Metro Pacific Corp. on property development opportunities at the 150-hectare Fort Bonifacio Global City.**

Jaime Augusto Zobel de Ayala, president of ALI's parent firm Ayala Corp., told reporters at the sidelines of the Philippine Stock Exchange road show that ALI had always been interested in Fort Bonifacio.

ALI was the stiffest rival of MPC when the government privatized development rights over the former military camp in 1995.

"Discussions have taken place on and off. The discussions are between Jose Campos and MPC. They've asked us to look at some refinancing of the debt of MPC and that there may be investment opportunities in land development as well," Zobel de Ayala said. "They have approached ALI."

The Ayala chief said the debt refinancing might result in some opportunities for the group, which is the developer of the country's premier financial center, the Makati central business district (CBD).

"It (Fort Bonifacio) is potentially another CBD so it's already been of interest," Zobel de Ayala said. "We're willing to participate in the discussions."

MPC earlier broke ties with parent firm First Pacific Co. Ltd. by obtaining sweeping powers from shareholders to pursue debt reduction efforts. It is now using such powers to prevent the foreclosure of the 50.4-percent stake in Bonifacio Land Co. backing the $105-million debt owed to the Hong Kong-based conglomerate.

MPC identified the Ayala and Campos' Unilab groups as among its prospective development partners. However, no agreement has been reached or signed with respect to any purchase of shares in BLC.

MPC owns about 70 percent of BLC, which, in turn, owns a 55-percent stake in Fort Bonifacio Development Corp., a joint venture with the state-owned Bases Conversion Development Authority.

Prior to the signing of a binding agreement to sell a controlling stake in both BLC and Philippine Long Distance Telephone Co. between the Gokongweis and First Pacific, ALI was already among those bidding for MPC's 69.6-percent stake in BLC. Talks bogged down, however, because ALI's offer was not acceptable to MPC.

ALI had offered only P500 million in cash plus its 15.8-percent stake in the Metro Railway Transit Corp. in exchange of the controlling stake in BLC, which was flatly rejected by MPC, which earlier sought no less than $200 million for the stake.

The management of MPC led by chair and CEO Manuel V. Pangilinan is seeking to spoil the Gokongweis' all-or-nothing bid for BLC and PLDT by preventing the foreclosure of the loan owed to First Pacific through subsidiary Larouge BV.

## *91-day T-bill rate rises to 5.223%*

THE YIELD of the benchmark 91-day treasury bills settled at 5.223 percent, up two basis points, during yesterday's auction.

Total tenders reached P12.92 billion, as against the total offering of P9 billion. The breakdown of the bids were: P6.15 billion, P2.986 billion, and P3.785 billion for the 91-, 182- and 364-day bills, respectively.

The government auction committee made a partial award, accepting P3.5 billion. Tenders for the 182-day and 364-day bills were fully rejected.

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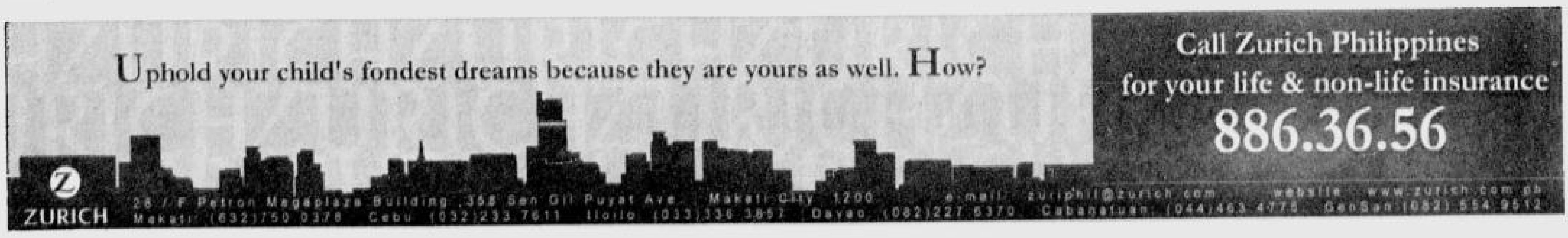
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# SMC sees higher '02 net profit

By Elena R. Torrijos

FOOD and beverage conglomerate San Miguel Corp. said yesterday its net income this year would surpass its 2001 net income of P6.47 billion.

SMC chief finance officer Ferdinand Constantino added that the company's recent acquisitions have started to show improvements and should fuel growth for the entire group, particularly in 2003.

"We will improve compared to the P6.4 billion last year," Constantino told reporters at the sidelines of the Philippine Stock Exchange road show.

Asked where growth will come from, Constantino said: "Basically the contributions from Coke, the contribution of Cosmos, the improved contribution of the food business, and the improved contribution of domestic beer. All of the operations are doing quite well."

SMC acquired Coke Philippines last year through a joint venture with the Atlanta-based Coca Cola Co. It also bought processed meat manufacturer Pure Foods Corp., which has been renamed San Miguel-Pure Foods Corp., from the Ayala group.

After its acquisition of the country's second-biggest local soft drink player Cosmos Bottling Corp. early this year, SMC's soft drink market share rose to 87 percent.

Constantino said Coke Philippines has shown improved operating margins since May.

# Local bourse lists new reform measures

By Doris C. Dumlao

AIMING to be the best among its peers in the Southeast Asian region by 2007, the Philippine Stock Exchange yesterday vowed to slap stiffer penalties against disclosure violations and introduce tighter safeguards to prevent stock price manipulation and insider trading.

As part of the new framework for governance presented to President Macapagal-Arroyo, PSE president Ernest Leung said the local bourse had mapped out a series of reforms needed to further improve how the exchange is run. This was in the aftermath of the BW Resources price manipulation scandal, which shattered investor confidence in the local market a few years ago.

By the end of this month, Leung said the PSE would increase penalties on failure to provide information on a timely and accurate basis "to strengthen the resolve of listed firms to fully disclose materials needed by market (players) to make informed judgments."

"To have more effective safeguard against insider trading by directors or officers of listed companies, we shall impose a blackout provision," he noted.

The blackout provision means that directors or officers of a listed company would not be allowed to trade when the company is in the middle of negotiations on a deal.

Leung also said the PSE would broaden the range of products in the exchange to give more choices to investors. Yesterday, the PSE signed a memorandum of understanding with Finance Secretary Jose Isidro Camacho and National Treasurer Sergio Edeza for the listing and secondary trading of treasury bills.

"Rules on listing of other instruments like real estate investment trust, exchange traded funds and dollar board shall be in place by year-end," he said.

The PSE president also said the local bourse would enter into information sharing arrangements with other exchanges to track illicit transactions that might have crossed borders.

## PHILIPPINE STOCK EXCHANGE

(As of Monday, September 16, 2002)

| STOCKS | OPEN | HIGH | LOW | CLOSE | VOLUME |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **BANKS & FINANCIAL SERVICES** | | | | | |
| **BANKS** | | | | | |
| Banco de Oro Univ. Bank | 18 | 18.75 | 18 | 18.75 | 76,400 |
| Bank of the Phil. Islands | 48 | 48 | 47.5 | 47.5 | 668,000 |
| China Banking Corp. | 610 | 620 | 610 | 620 | 670 |
| Citystate Savings Bank | 14.25 | 14.25 | 14.25 | 14.25 | 20,000 |
| Equitable PCI Bank Inc. | 28.5 | 29.5 | 28.5 | 29 | 190,600 |
| First E-Bank Corp. | 1.2 | 1.2 | 1.2 | 1.2 | 20,000 |
| Metropolitan Bank & Trust | 34 | 34.5 | 34 | 34.5 | 5,600 |
| Philippine National Bank | 30.5 | 31 | 30.5 | 31 | 4,000 |
| Security Bank Corp. | 12.25 | 12.25 | 12.25 | 12.25 | 40,900 |
| Union Bank of the Phil. | 19 | 19 | 19 | 19 | 3,100 |
| **FINANCIAL SERVICE** | | | | | |
| Filipino Fund Inc. | 0.3 | 0.3 | 0.3 | 0.3 | 200,000 |
| Manulife Financial Corp. | 1180 | 1185 | 1180 | 1180 | 2,760 |
| Sun Life Financial Serv. | 905 | 910 | 905 | 910 | 3,140 |
| **COMMERCIAL & INDUSTRIAL** | | | | | |
| **COMMUNICATION** | | | | | |
| ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corp. | 24 | 24 | 24 | 24 | 1,800 |
| Digital Telecom Phils. Inc. | 0.53 | 0.53 | 0.53 | 0.53 | 170,000 |
| Globe Telecom Inc. | 520 | 520 | 520 | 520 | 600 |
| Ipeople Inc. | 0.71 | 0.71 | 0.71 | 0.71 | 150,000 |
| ISM Communications Corp. | 0.026 | 0.026 | 0.025 | 0.026 | 5,800,000 |
| Phil. Long Dis Tel Co. | 302.5 | 305 | 297.5 | 302.5 | 37,620 |
| Ivantage Corp. | 0.31 | 0.31 | 0.31 | 0.31 | 250,000 |
| Philweb.Com Inc. | 0.011 | 0.012 | 0.011 | 0.012 | 8,100,000 |
| **POWER & ENERGY** | | | | | |
| Manila Electric Co. A | 18.5 | 18.75 | 18.5 | 18.75 | 2,900 |
| Manila Electric Co. B | 31 | 31.5 | 31 | 31.5 | 40,600 |
| Petron Corp. | 1.6 | 1.62 | 1.6 | 1.62 | 913,000 |
| **TRANSPORTATION SERVICES** | | | | | |
| Int'l Container Term'l Sv | 2.46 | 2.55 | 2.46 | 2.5 | 1,432,000 |
| Negros Navigation Co. Inc. | 0.55 | 0.55 | 0.55 | 0.55 | 100,000 |
| William, Gothong & Aboitiz | 3.6 | 3.6 | 3.6 | 3.6 | 20,000 |
| **CONSTRUCTION & OTHER RELATED PRODUCTS** | | | | | |
| Republic Glass Hldg. Corp. | 1.54 | 1.54 | 1.54 | 1.54 | 1,000 |
| **FOOD, BEVERAGES & TOBACCO** | | | | | |
| Alaska Milk Corp. | 2.14 | 2.14 | 2.14 | 2.14 | 27,000 |
| Jollibee Foods Corp. | 13.75 | 14 | 13.75 | 14 | 385,100 |
| La Tondeña Distillers Inc. | 31 | 31 | 31 | 31 | 200 |
| RFM Corp. | 0.82 | 0.85 | 0.82 | 0.84 | 1,420,000 |
| San Miguel Corp. A | 52 | 53 | 52 | 53 | 441,300 |
| San Miguel Corp. B | 56.5 | 56.5 | 56.5 | 56.5 | 167,300 |
| Vitarich Corp. | 0.32 | 0.32 | 0.32 | 0.32 | 100,000 |
| **HOLDING FIRMS** | | | | | |
| Abacus Con Res & Hdg. B | 0.43 | 0.43 | 0.43 | 0.43 | 10,000 |
| Ayala Corp. | 5.3 | 5.4 | 5.3 | 5.4 | 1,992,000 |
| Aboitiz Equity Ventures | 2.44 | 2.44 | 2.42 | 2.42 | 1,201,000 |
| Ajo.Net Holdings Inc. | 0.19 | 0.26 | 0.19 | 0.26 | 60,000 |
| A. Soriano Corp. | 0.5 | 0.5 | 0.5 | 0.5 | 50,000 |
| ATN Holdings Inc. | 2.75 | 2.75 | 2.75 | 2.75 | 20,000 |
| Balabac Resources & Hldgs. | 0.125 | 0.125 | 0.125 | 0.125 | 390,000 |
| Benpres Holdings Corp. | 0.26 | 0.26 | 0.25 | 0.25 | 2,490,000 |
| Crown Equities Inc. | 0.19 | 0.19 | 0.19 | 0.19 | 30,000 |
| Ebecom Holdings Inc. | 1.6 | 1.7 | 1.6 | 1.7 | 20,000 |
| First Phil Hldgs. Corp. | 14.25 | 14.25 | 14 | 14.25 | 199,000 |
| J.G. Summit Holdings Inc. | 1.34 | 1.36 | 1.34 | 1.36 | 915,000 |
| Megaworld Corp. | 0.58 | 0.58 | 0.58 | 0.58 | 230,000 |
| Metro Pacific Corp. | 0.26 | 0.26 | 0.26 | 0.26 | 100,000 |
| Roxas Holdings Inc. | 0.72 | 0.72 | 0.72 | 0.72 | 50,000 |
| Solid Group Inc. | 0.31 | 0.31 | 0.31 | 0.31 | 150,000 |
| **MANUFACTURING, DISTRIBUTION & TRADING** | | | | | |
| Metro Alliance Holdings | 0.82 | 0.82 | 0.82 | 0.82 | 70,000 |
| Mabuhay Vinyl Corp. | 0.58 | 0.58 | 0.58 | 0.58 | 60,000 |
| Picop Resources Inc. | 0.0525 | 0.0525 | 0.0525 | 0.0525 | 300,000 |
| SPI Technologies Inc. | 7.8 | 7.9 | 7.8 | 7.9 | 167,000 |
| Steniel Manufacturing | 0.1 | 0.1 | 0.1 | 0.1 | 300,000 |
| **HOTEL, RECREATION & OTHER SERVICE** | | | | | |
| Belle Corp. | 0.37 | 0.38 | 0.37 | 0.38 | 860,000 |
| Mondragon Intl Phils. Inc. | 0.12 | 0.12 | 0.12 | 0.12 | 80,000 |
| **BONDS, PREFERRED & WARRANTS** | | | | | |
| ABS-CBN Hldgs. Corp. (Pdr) | 24.25 | 24.25 | 24 | 24 | 97,800 |
| PLDT 10% Pref Series Aa | 10.25 | 10.25 | 10.25 | 10.25 | 700 |
| **PROPERTY** | | | | | |
| Ayala Land Inc. | 5.9 | 5.9 | 5.9 | 5.9 | 1,315,000 |
| Araneta Properties Inc. | 0.15 | 0.15 | 0.15 | 0.15 | 10,000 |
| Cityland Development Corp. | 2 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 63,000 |
| Cebu Holdings Inc. | 0.3 | 0.3 | 0.3 | 0.3 | 20,000 |
| C & P Homes Inc. | 0.19 | 0.19 | 0.19 | 0.19 | 20,000 |
| Cyber Bay Corp. | 0.14 | 0.14 | 0.135 | 0.14 | 2,980,000 |
| Empire East Land Inc. | 0.18 | 0.18 | 0.18 | 0.18 | 2,030,000 |
| Filinvest Land Inc. | 1.12 | 1.12 | 1.12 | 1.12 | 592,000 |
| Highlands Prime Inc. | 1.94 | 1.94 | 1.94 | 1.94 | 100,000 |
| Kuok Phil. Properties | 0.05 | 0.05 | 0.05 | 0.05 | 500,000 |
| Philippine Estates Corp. | 0.035 | 0.035 | 0.035 | 0.035 | 100,000 |
| SM Development Corp. | 1.02 | 1.02 | 0.95 | 1.02 | 2,444,000 |
| SM Prime Holdings Inc. | 5.7 | 5.8 | 5.7 | 5.8 | 6,058,000 |
| **MINING** | | | | | |
| Omico Corp. | 0.0024 | 0.0024 | 0.0024 | 0.0024 | 5,000,000 |
| Philex Mining Corp. A | 0.31 | 0.31 | 0.31 | 0.31 | 100,000 |
| Philex Mining Corp. B | 0.31 | 0.31 | 0.31 | 0.31 | 190,000 |
| **OIL** | | | | | |
| Interport Res. | 0.003 | 0.003 | 0.003 | 0.003 | 3,000,000 |
| South China Resources Inc | 0.5 | 0.5 | 0.5 | 0.5 | 160,000 |

## DISCLOSURES

THE LISTING of 218,009,679 common shares of **Sun Life Financial Services of Canada Inc.** was set for Sept.18.

* * *

**PHILIPPINE Estates Corp.** will hold its annual stockholders' meeting on Oct. 23 at 2:30 p.m. at the Discovery Suites, ADB Avenue, Ortigas Center, Pasig City. Record date is Sept. 30.

* * *

**ASIA Amalgamated Holdings Corp.** designated Cherrie V. Gow as compliance officer of the corporation.

* * *

**DIVERSIFIED Financial Network Inc.** disclosed that James Beltran and Edwin B. Villanueva had assumed their positions as company directors starting Sept. 10.

* * *

ELECTED chair and CEO of **Cyber Bay Corp.** was Ramon S. Ang. Also elected were Peter Suchianco, president and COO; Reynaldo Arcilla, executive vice president; Mario Surio, vice president-technical; David Go, treasurer; and Ray Espinosa, corporate secretary.

* * *

**MONDRAGON International Philippines Inc.** rescheduled its annual stockholders' meeting to March 17, 2003 at 9 a.m. at the Mondragon House Ballroom, Makati City.

* * *

**A BROWN Company Inc.** repurchased 10,000 of its shares at P0.50 centavos per share on Sept. 13.

* * *

**CROWN Equities Inc.** said it was holding talks with some interested groups with respect to possible participation in the South Luzon highway project but no definite agreement with any party has been reached at this time. ***Compiled by Ray Leyesa, PDI Research***

## CURRENCIES

Sept. 16, 2002

| Country | Unit | Euro Equivalent | Foreign currency in US$ | Foreign currency in Peso |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| United States | Dollar | 1.029336 | 1.000000 | 52.1150 |
| Japan | Yen | 0.008449 | 0.008208 | 0.4278 |
| United Kingdom | Pound | 1.597735 | 1.552200 | 80.8929 |
| Hong Kong | Dollar | 0.131988 | 0.128226 | 6.6825 |
| Switzerland | Franc | 0.681951 | 0.662515 | 34.5270 |
| Canada | Dollar | 0.651809 | 0.633232 | 33.0009 |
| Singapore | Dollar | 0.580726 | 0.564175 | 29.4020 |
| Australia | Dollar | 0.566036 | 0.549904 | 28.6582 |
| Bahrain | Dinar | 2.730335 | 2.652520 | 138.2361 |
| Saudi Arabia | Rial | 0.274475 | 0.266652 | 13.8966 |
| Brunei | Dollar | 0.583259 | 0.566636 | 29.5302 |
| Indonesia | Rupiah | 0.000114 | 0.000111 | 0.0058 |
| Thailand | Baht | 0.024056 | 0.023370 | 1.2179 |
| UAE | Dirham | 0.280282 | 0.272294 | 14.1906 |
| Korea | Won | 0.000848 | 0.000824 | 0.0429 |
| Euro | Euro | 1.000000 | 0.971500 | 50.6297 |
| Argentina | Real | 0.284347 | 0.276243 | 14.3964 |
| Brazil | Real | 0.327293 | 0.317965 | 16.5707 |
| Denmark | Kroner | 0.134606 | 0.130770 | 6.8151 |
| India | Rupee | 0.021259 | 0.020653 | 1.0763 |
| Malaysia | Ringgit | 0.270914 | 0.263193 | 13.7163 |
| Mexico | New Peso | 0.103305 | 0.100361 | 5.2303 |
| New Zealand | Dollar | 0.487398 | 0.473507 | 24.6768 |
| Norway | Kroner | 0.136172 | 0.132291 | 6.8943 |
| Pakistan | Rupee | 0.017416 | 0.016920 | 0.8818 |
| South Africa | Rand | 0.098032 | 0.095238 | 4.9633 |
| Sweden | Kroner | 0.108410 | 0.105320 | 5.4888 |
| Syria | Pound | 0.023288 | 0.022624 | 1.1790 |
| Taiwan | NT Dollar | 0.029880 | 0.029028 | 1.5128 |
| Venezuela | Bolivar | 0.000705 | 0.000685 | 0.0357 |

GOLFERS
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SEC LICENSE # A 1998-2129
AS OF SEPT. 16, 2002

| | SELLING | BUYING |
|---|---|---|
| 1. ALABANG COUNTRY CLUB "A" | 1,880,000 | 1,500,000 |
| 2. ALABANG COUNTRY CLUB "B" | 1,700,000 | |
| 3. BAGUIO COUNTRY CLUB | 720,000 | 680,000 |
| 4. CALATAGAN GOLF & COUNTRY CLUB "A" | 60,000 | |
| 5. CAMP JOHN HAY | 280,000 | 250,000 |
| 6. CANLUBANG GOLF & COUNTRY CLUB | 550,000 | |
| 7. CAPITOL HILLS GOLF & COUNTRY CLUB | 120,000 | |
| 8. CELEBRITY CLUB | 180,000 | 170,000 |
| 9. COUNTRY CLUB AT TAGAYTAY HIGHLANDS | 400,000 | 380,000 |
| 10. CLUB FILIPINO | 180,000 | |
| 11. EASTRIDGE GOLF CLUB "A" | 150,000 | |
| 12. EAGLERIDGE GOLF CLUB "A" | 350,000 | 300,000 |
| 13. EVERCREST GOLF CLUB "A" | 100,000 | |
| 14. FOREST HILLS GOLF & COUNTRY CLUB "A" | 220,000 | 200,000 |
| 15. FOREST HILLS GOLF & COUNTRY CLUB "B" | 280,000 | |
| 16. FOREST HILLS GOLF & COUNTRY CLUB "C" | 500,000 | |
| 17. LUISITA GOLF CLUB | 400,000 | |
| 18. MAKATI SPORTS CLUB "A" | 250,000 | 230,000 |
| 19. MAKATI SPORTS CLUB "B" | 270,000 | 250,000 |
| 20. MANILA GOLF CLUB (IND) | | 10,500,000 |
| 21. MANILA GOLF CLUB (CORP) | 13,000,000 | |
| 22. MANILA POLO CLUB | 2,800,000 | 2,600,000 |
| 23. MANILA SOUTHWOODS GOLF CLUB "A" | 600,000 | |
| 24. MANILA SOUTHWOODS GOLF CLUB "B" | 700,000 | |
| 25. METROPOLITAN CLUB "A" | 100,000 | |
| 26. METROPOLITAN CLUB "B" | 150,000 | |
| 27. MT MALARAYAT GOLF CLUB (IND) | 340,000 | |
| 28. ORCHARD GOLF & COUNTRY CLUB "A" "B" "C" | Please call | Please call |
| 29. QUEZON CITY SPORTS CLUB | 220,000 | 150,000 |
| 30. RIVIERA GOLF & COUNTRY CLUB "A" | 200,000 | |
| 31. RIVIERA GOLF & COUNTRY CLUB "B" | 210,000 | |
| 32. RIVIERA GOLF & COUNTRY CLUB "C" | 340,000 | 320,000 |
| 33. STA ELENA GOLF CLUB "A" | 1,650,000 | |
| 34. SUBIC BAY YACHT CLUB (IND) | 250,000 | |
| 35. TAGAYTAY HIGHLANDS INT'L GOLF CLUB | 650,000 | 600,000 |
| 36. TAGAYTAY MIDLAND | 800,000 | 750,000 |
| 37. VALLE VERDE COUNTRY CLUB | 150,000 | |
| 38. VALLEY GOLF & COUNTRY CLUB | 300,000 | 260,000 |
| 39. WACK WACK GOLF & COUNTRY CLUB | 6,800,000 | |

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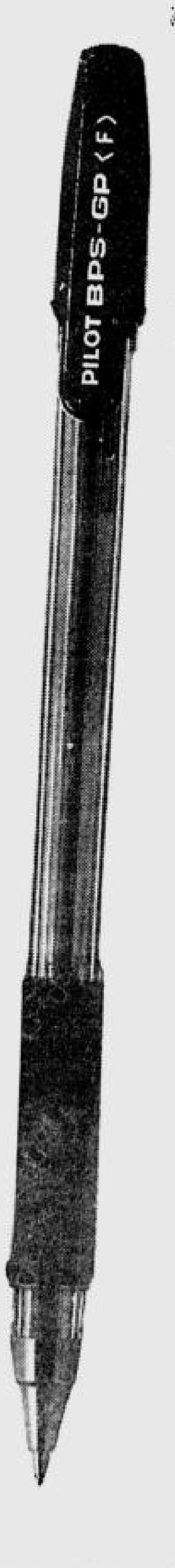

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# 'Mosquito' dealers: Deregulation's ugly spawn

**By Ronnel W. Domingo**

*(Conclusion)*

THE ASIAN Institute of Management's Policy Center reported in a study completed in July that the government lost to diesel smugglers some P1.2 billion in revenues last year. This represented about 300,000 liters of hot fuel sold every day, or 40 million liters sold in Luzon and Mindanao every month.

These figures, the AIM said, suggested a growing activity in the trafficking of smuggled diesel from 40 million liters of undeclared consumption in 1999 and 150 million liters in 2000.

The study cites three methods of smuggling diesel:

- technical smuggling, when importers declare less than their actual shipment or do not declare at all or illegally reuse their import documents;
- actual smuggling, where importers conspire with government officials or use spare storage facilities in cargo vessels; and,
- smuggling in the high seas using small boats to buy diesel from tankers plying Philippine waters.

Among the entry points where diesel is reportedly being smuggled to the country are Subic Bay, Clark in Pampanga, Iloilo, Cebu, Palawan, Zamboanga, General Santos City, Davao, Bataan and Manila Bay—the last two being the closest to the operations of the so-called mosquitoes.

The AIM report further shows that smuggled diesel is being sold through agents, middlemen and independent traders at prices P2 or P3 cheaper than those in the legal market.

More than half the petroleum dealers interviewed in the study claimed to have been approached by such agents.

## 'Paihi'

The institute adds that smugglers go for traders who can buy in bulk, retailers who are small and independent, as well as the newly established, truckers and haulers, major industrial consumers, and end-consumers who favor cheaper sources.

DISPLAYING the tools of the trade.

JOAN BONDOC

Roberto Kanapi, Pilipinas Shell Petroleum Corp.'s general manager for external affairs, says sales officers on the field report of questionable activities that point to smuggling.

"The bottled diesel is 'paihi' or pilfered from lorries," Kanapi says. "That is why the fuel looks dirty."

The Shell executive adds that some dealers in northern Metro Manila sell P1 to P1.50 below the normal selling price.

"Our own dealers are forced to match these prices by cutting margin and selling below cost," he says. "Otherwise, they will lose their business."

Eastern Petroleum Corp. chair Fernando Martinez says some dealers who have tried to compete with the under-sellers eventually succumb to the price pressure and fold up.

"These (outfits) operate as far as Isabela province," Martinez says. "They do not comply with environment and safety standards."

Martinez, who is also president of the New Petroleum Players Association of the Philippines (NPPAP), has called on local governments to be vigilant against these illegal fuel vendors and have these businesses closed down.

"The situation is just like that in the transport sector: If you let the colorums go their way, the legitimate operators would lose out."

The NPPAP chief says the situation is discouraging for current and would-be oil businessmen. "The government, for its part, loses part of its tax base when businesses close down," he stresses.

## Beata link

Several sources, who asked not to be named, said in separate interviews that smuggled diesel were going through the oil depot along Beata St. in Pandacan, Manila, or transferred straight to tank trucks from barges in certain Manila piers.

"The Beata depot is busy at night even if it has been supposedly padlocked since the end of June," one source revealed.

While the Big Three oil companies-Shell, Petron Corp. and Caltex (Philippine) Inc.—have avoided a complete shutdown of their product terminals in Pandacan through a memorandum of agreement with the Department of Energy and Manila Mayor Lito Atienza, several small oil companies leasing storage tanks in Beata have not been as lucky.

The Manila city council passed in November last year an ordinance that reclassified the Pandacan-Sta. Ana area from an industrial to a commercial-residential zone. Seen as a result of a wave of fear that gripped the world after the terrorist attacks against the United States on Sept. 11 last year, the ordinance was aimed at the oil depots that it barred from operating beyond June 30.

Among the small oil firms that lease tanks in Beata are Petrolino, Unioil Philippines Petroleum, Jetti, Uno Fuel, Yvette Marketing, Gulf Oil, Bal Trading, Prosperity Property and Peak Star.

Despite city hall's closure order, however, Jetti and Prosperity Property have managed to secure special permits to operate for 90 days from July 1.

Emmanuel Sison, secretary to Mayor Atienza, was quoted as saying the special permits were granted to allow the two firms to draw out the remaining contents of their tanks. He said the move was also aimed at curbing "underground operations" in Beata.

Meanwhile, another source said diesel was also being smuggled through Piers 6 and 16 of the Manila North Harbor.

## Consequence of deregulation

Energy Undersecretary De Dios thinks that malpractices may be a consequence of deregulation. "More investors are now able to join the business, but some become irresponsible. That is why we have to make sure that we monitor them."

Some new players may resort to cutting corners to be able to compete with the major players, he said.

"They can cut corners as long as they do not violate rules and regulations that we have set up to maintain standards like those on safety," De Dios said.

He says while the energy department monitors prices and does spot checks on safety compliance, businesses ultimately answer to agencies that give them permits.

"The DOE is concerned with standards on quality and safety without encroaching with the prerogatives of the other agencies," he says.

Late last month, Energy Secretary Vincent Perez Jr. said the department would put up two new bureaus pursuant to Administrative Order 38. The order provided for the strengthening of the DOE as an institution by redefining the function of its units.

One of the new bureaus is the Oil Industry Administration Bureau, which De Dios oversees.

The OIAB will lay out and implement policies and regulations on the oil sector, including the processing, handling and marketing of petroleum products.

Perez says the enactment of laws like the oil industry deregulation law has expanded the role of his department. This, in turn, has brought the need to reorganize the DOE—which was simply an attached agency of the Office of the President when it was created in 1992—to enable it to cope with the developments.

With new albeit still limited powers, De Dios is optimistic: "We are not giving up. We have to make full use of our powers to fully implement the law by working with other agencies like the Department of Interior and Local Government and the Philippine National Police, if necessary."

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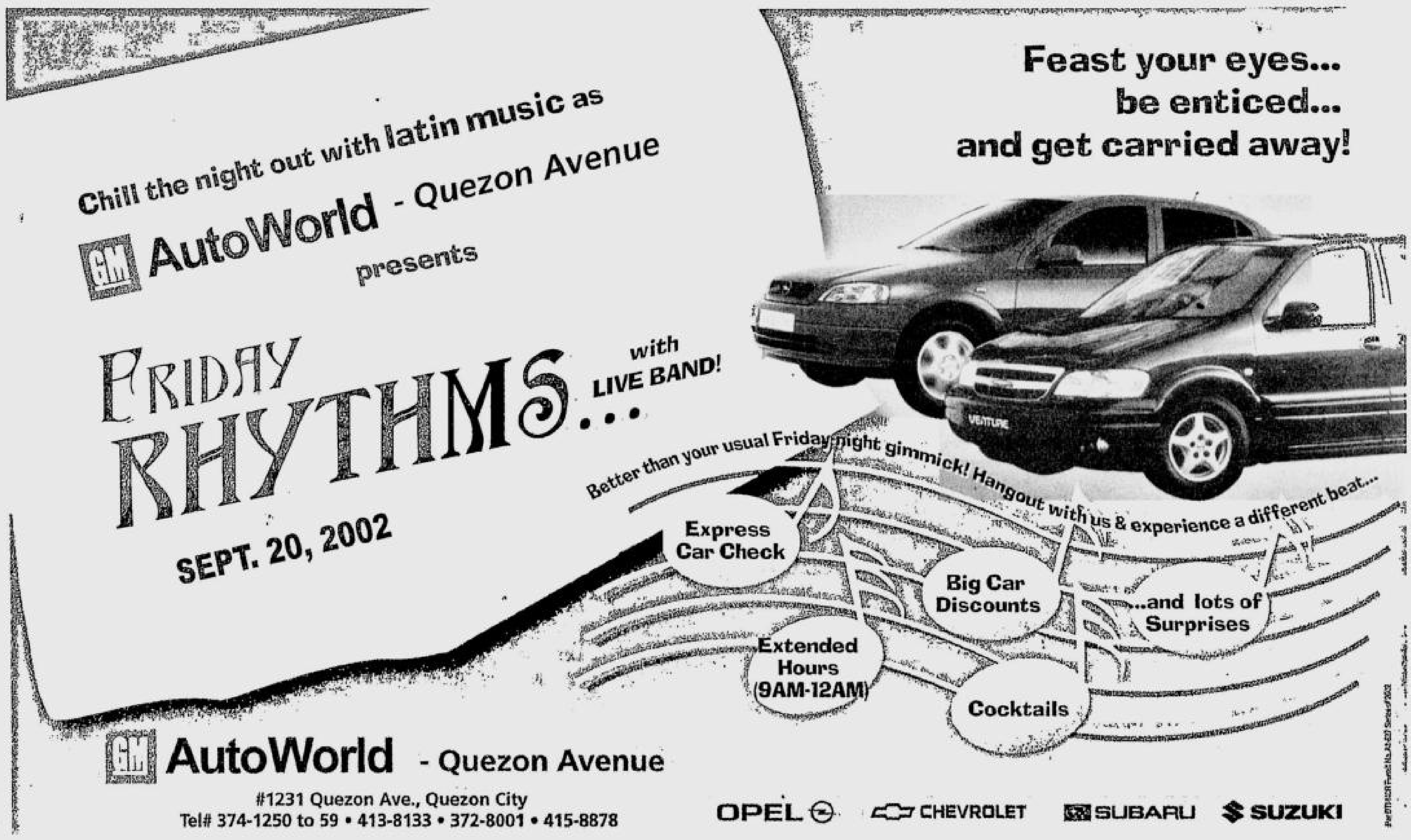

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OPEL CHEVROLET SUBARU SUZUKI

# People, Events & Products

Aries Espinosa, Editor
aespinosa@inquirer.com.ph

## Brent Subic the alternative to Manila international schools

TREKKING deep into a virgin rainforest with native guides teaching their ancient secrets of survival. Swimming with whales and having photos taken with them. Seeing history firsthand by scuba diving into wrecked World War II ships teeming with colorful fish.

These are once-in-a-lifetime experiences for the thousands of tourists who visit the Subic Bay Freeport Zone each year. But they are just part of the educational experience enjoyed by students of the Brent International School Subic.

Brent Subic offers an internationally accredited education with full boarding facilities in one of Asia's most spectacular natural environments. The spacious campus is surrounded by a 10,000-hectare virgin rainforest and 74 km of shoreline along the pristine Subic Bay. Within this natural wonderland are more than 100 different types of animals, 745 kinds of plants, and more than 200 species of fish. Brent students can observe monkeys in their natural habitat, watch Subic's nocturnal fruit bat population put on a spectacular show at dusk every day, and visit the impressive butterfly park that immerses visitors in the brilliant colors and diverse variations of this beautiful species.

Parents looking for an international school in the Philippines are discovering that Brent Subic is an outstanding option outside the urban environment of Manila. Brent Subic International School is accredited by the US-based Western Association of Schools and Colleges and offers a kindergarten through high school education in the safe and beautiful surroundings of Subic Bay.

"Sending children to school in Subic is like educating them in a small community in the United States," says Susan Fisher, an American who has three children attending Brent Subic. "Most of my children's classmates live close by. We know our neighbors and we feel safe here."

Brent Subic is located in Binictican, the US Navy-built replica of an American suburban neighborhood inside the secured perimeter of the Subic Bay Freeport Zone. The campus is nestled inside one of the Philippines' most pristine rainforests, with monkeys chattering in the tree tops and multi-colored birds flying overhead.

The Freeport is equipped with athletic fields, swimming pools, beaches, tennis courts, and playgrounds. School-sponsored clubs take advantage of Subic's outstanding natural environment for sailing, horseback riding, scuba diving, golf, and other activities. In the neighborhood around the campus, houses are not surrounded by walls and students ride their bikes and play among friends and neighbors. The area gives older children the freedom they need to grow without the difficulties of city living.

Within this spectacular natural environment, Brent Subic offers a world-class education. The school is part of the respected Brent International School System, which was established in the Philippines by American missionaries in 1909. The school's international accreditation assures that students are taught to American educational standards. The faculty has a strong representation of American English speakers. Part of the school's program include Advanced Placement (AP) classes for high school level students that allow them to test out of some of their initial classes at an international university. At Brent Subic, the results of this high level of education are evident.

"Brent Subic prepares students to go to top universities around the world," says William Corey, the school's headmaster and an educator at international schools worldwide for the last 25 years. "Our graduates have gone on to attend Seattle University, New York University, University of Oregon, and the US Air Force Academy."

Comfortable American-style homes with central air-conditioning are available within walking distance of the Brent Subic campus for weekday and full-time boarding. The school also works with parents to help organize car-pooling and shared transportation arrangements for students traveling from nearby areas to Subic.

The new school year started in August. Interested parents are invited to the Brent Subic campus for a tour. For more information, call William Corey or Maricar Peralta at 047-252-6872, e-mail info@brentsubic.edu.ph, or log on to www.brentsubic.edu.ph.

**MTV, CECON SIGN JAGUAR PROMO**

MTV Philippines marketing manager Christina Lopez (left), Jaguar's executive director Marc Soong, and Cecon brand manager Jeanne Tanos sign into agreement the promotion of the Catch the Jaguar promo. The promo ends Oct. 25, with the grand draw on Nov. 8. The winner goes home with a brand new Jaguar X-Type. To join, watch MTV Philippines (Ch. 41 on Sky and Home Cable, 45 on Destiny, 41 on free TV), spot at least three 'Jaguar stingers' every week, and on an empty box of Ascorbic Acid Cecon 500mg 100s write down the number on the Jaguar stingers' collar, the date and the time when the stingers appeared, and include your name, address, telephone number, age and signature. Drop entries at designated Mercury Drug drop boxes, TGI Fridays Metro Manila outlets, Italianni's Metro Manila outlets, Tower Records Metro Manila outlets, the 89.9 DWTM office, or mail to PO Box 1696, Makati Central Post Office, Makati City 1256.

## Quality products boost recycling industry

ENVIRONMENT CONSCIOUSNESS in industries is shifting more to recycling and good manufacturing practices, which are resulting in quality but less expensive products.

The worldwide trend is catching on in the Philippines, as attested to by Printing Images CtC Inc., a local company based in the Subic Freeport Zone. The company buys empty inkjets and laser printer cartridges, which it remanufactures into quality cartridges, most of which are sold to the United States and Europe for less than the price of originals. Lately, the company has been preparing to sell a portion of the products to the local market.

Printing Images follows good manufacturing practices. The empties are cleaned with purified water to dislodge solids; the colorants for inks are free of surfactants and hazardous metals. There are no misting, no fumes, no volatile organic compounds; no aromatic compounds, no acids in the processing. The dyes are from plants. "In fact, hair dye is more dangerous," said Susan P. Grimm, a Filipina chemist, who develops the inks and other products. "I have to use environment friendly materials because I deal with these everyday and I want to ensure that I am safe, and so are our workers," added Susan. She and her husband, Norbert Grimm, own the company (047-2526012; 0916-3053244).

Proof of the company's success—and of the bright prospects for recycling and eco-friendly technologies and products—is its recent expansion nationwide, with collection centers for Manila and Southern Luzon (890-1266, 0917-8329073); Central and Northern Luzon (047-2244526); and for Visayas and Mindanao (0916-4315946).

## *EMC appoints veteran to head EMC sales*

EMC Corp., the world leader in information storage, announced today that EMC sales veteran Steve Fitz was appointed general manager and vice-president of sales for Asia Pacific, Japan and Korea. Fitz also serves as the President of EMC Japan. Prior to receiving this elevated role, Fitz was EMC's divisional vice president, New York and New Jersey, one of EMC's most significant revenue-generating US regions.

Complementing and strengthening Fitz' leadership is the management team of Gary Jackson, vice president, Asia Pacific, James Hanley, vice president of operations, Asia Pacific, Hayward Jeong, vice president and country manager, EMC Korea and Hiroaki Kawamura, vice president and country manager for EMC Japan.

The new management team will focus on enhancing the delivery of new hardware and software products and services to accelerate the adoption of networked storage systems by leveraging the company's global strength, local expertise and by developing significant and relevant partner relationships. The management team is responsible for providing the region with the strategic direction to increase revenue and market share in some of the world's largest, fastest-growing IT markets.

Frank Hauck, executive vice president, customer operations, said, "Each year the region becomes increasingly more important to EMC's overall global success, and with the emergence of the People's Republic of China, the opening of our $50-million Japan Solutions Center in Tokyo and the anticipated economic recovery, we need strong local leadership to capitalize on all opportunities for growth. Steve and his management team possess a strong understanding of the storage market and the customer needs of the Asia Pacific market.

"Until recently, the region had to wait for corporate decision makers but today we have a local management team that is empowered to make real time decisions for the betterment of our customers, partners and employees," said Fitz. "I consider myself fortunate to have such a talented management team. James, Hayward and Kawamura-san are EMC veterans and Gary joined us from Cisco. Each of them will play pivotal roles in developing EMC's presence in the region."

### Product FILES

## Like wearing your old favorite

NOT ALL men can carry Burberry. But for those select few who can, it's time you checked out Burberry's new collection. This new menswear collection can be described fittingly as Burberry with a twist. A twist towards a more urban, relaxed feel. Details used on vintage pieces (the inspiration for the collection) have been reworked to provide an overall feeling of comfort. Items are washed in a way that makes them feel softer—much like the feeling one gets when donning an old favorite piece of clothing.

Even the signature Burberry trench coat has taken on a washed, weathered, and worn look.

A new short jacket with four trench pockets and stitching detail has also been introduced in this collection. Stonewashed denim jeans and jean jackets are paired casually with more tailored classics. In swimwear, the classic check has been reinterpreted in a subtle navy.

Suit jackets and sport coats define the more formal feature of this collection. These items have a high button carriage and slant pockets worn with flat front trousers. The strong English classics such as the rowing blazer, have likewise been given a modern silhouette with an updated version of the Burberry Crest on the breast pocket.

The fabrics used in this collection are linen, cotton silk, gabardine, water resistant suede, and glove nappa leather.

## LB Manila scores grand slam In Philippine creative awards

LEO BURNETT Manila was voted "Best in Creative" at the 4As Philippines Agency of the Year Awards held recently. With the Platinum for the 16th PhilippineAdvertising Congress and the Creative Guild's TV Ad of the Year, this most recent award gives Leo Burnett Manila the grand slam in Philippine advertising shows.

Burnett also won "Best in Media" for the second consecutive year for its media specialist Starcom.

"We 'reached for the stars' and delivered on two of the most coveted awards for Leo Burnett and Starcom. This award is a recognition of our effort to stay focused on building our creative product and success stories for our clients," LB Manila managing director March Ventosa said.

Leo Burnett won the "Best in Creative" award for its outstanding creative achievement based on the consistency and quality of creative ideas across media vehicles. Judging was based on an agency's body of work consisting of six best advertising pieces. Leo Burnett's entries were McDonald's "Lolo" and Bengay's "Japanese for TV", Pacific Internet's "Best Friends" and "Lyrics" for radio, and McDonald's "102 Dalmatians" and Mr. Clean's "Bar Exam" for print.

"This is truly an amazing achievement that we are justly proud of. We worked hard to achieve it," Richard Irvine, LB Manila's executive creative director, said after receiving the award.

Leo Burnett/Starcom bagged the "Best in Media" award for it's innovative use of media where an advertising message was effectively and efficiently communicated. Two case studies showcasing the agency's excellence in innovative media execution were submitted. These were McDonald's 20th Anniversary Couponing, a campaign that introduced texting as a new non-traditional media, and Tide's "Para Kay Inay Mula sa Tide", a program that communicated customer loyalty which significantly boosted Tide's share growth.

"Two consecutive Best in Media awards for a three-year-old media specialist is indeed a feat," Starcom managing director Lizelle Maralag said. "The two case studies showed that we have the best cost-efficient media solutions," she added.

## UP LAE applications still accepted

THE UP Law Aptitude Examination (LAE) for academic year 2003-2004 will be held on Sunday, Nov. 24, in UP Diliman, UP Visayas-Iloilo, UP Cebu, UP Mindanao and UP Baguio.

The LAE consists of objective tests designed to measure certain abilities and skills necessary to succeed in the UP College of Law. The test covers communication skills, reading comprehension and vocabulary, critical thinking, and verbal and quantitative reasoning.

Requirements for application include: (1) Proof of graduation or senior standing which can be a transcript of records for BA or BS graduates, or a certification from the Registrar of the school that he has completed at least 75 percent of the units required for his course, together with a Certified True Copy of Grades and General Weighted Average in the first three years of college undergraduate work; (2) three recent 2"x2" photos; (3) a self-addressed stamped envelope; (4) a photocopy of the 2001 Income Tax Return of parents or of the applicant, if employed (this is a requirement only for the applicants who seek exemption from the LAE testing fee); and (5) payment of the testing fee.

The accomplished registration form and testing fee must be received by the Admissions Committee at Room 211, UP College of Law, Malcolm Hall, Diliman Quezon City, not later than Nov. 15 (without fine), and Nov. 22 (with fine).

The Admissions Committee will determine who will qualify for interview based on their LAE scores. The average of the LAE score, the general weighted average (GWA), the interview and the essay test will be computed to determine the ranking of applicants.

An applicant who qualifies for admission must enroll for the academic year 2003-2004. He will not be allowed to defer admission (including the interview/essay phase) to another year, or file an application for a leave of absence in the first semester of 2003-2004.

Application forms are now available at the UP College of Law and may also be downloaded from the UP College of Law website at http://law.upd.edu.ph/

For more information, please call (02)434-9538 or (02) 920-5301 local 5545, or e-mail soclaw@up.edu.ph.

## *eStore-Exchange.com selling cancer books online*

WWW.eStore-Exchange.com, the Philippines' first Internet Mall and winner of the "Intel E-Commerce Site of the Year 2000", has Chinese cancer expert Professor Wang Zhen Guo's books entitled "The Cancer Terminator" and "Never Ever Give Up! Survival from Cancer" – now available online.

According to Manila-based Green and Gold International Exports, the Philippines' exclusive distributor of anti-cancer herbal medicine China No. 1 Super Tian Xian Liquid, the said books are now accessible through the said website for those interested in the fight against terminal cancer.

Author Wang Zhen Guo is president of China's Anti-Cancer Association of Jilin Province, president of the Chang Bai Shan Institute of Medicine, medical research head of China's Ministry of Public Health.

Wang discussed in his books how and why alternative medicine can now provide hope for survival among cancer patients, and how Chinese herbal medicine has proven its efficacy in oncological cases.

Also cited in both books are success stories and survival testimonials from men and women worldwide who have benefited from the healing effects of Chinese herbal medicine.

Wang has received awards worldwide, including recognition from China's State Ministry of Health, China's State Medical Administration, highest honors in the 38th World Eureka Invention Expo, World's Best Individual Invention and recognition from the Belgian Government and the Chinese Government.

Meanwhile, Green and Gold International Exports, located at Room 307 Solmac Building, Dapitan corner Banaue Streets, Quezon City, announced that both books are now available in Manila. For more information call 415-8714, 781-0069, 781-9370 or visit their website at www.cancerherbal.com.

# Developers say 'take a break, buy a farm estate'

By Tessa R. Salazar

TAKE a break from the stressful lifestyle of the cities. Cultivate your own vegetable field or flower farm. And if you can't tell an onion from a rose, you can always approach an agricultural consultant who's always available to help novices.

This seems to be what realty developers have been urging city dwellers lately. And several developers are taking "R and R" (rest and recreation) seriously, as leisure farming and weekend farming getaways are becoming their common themes.

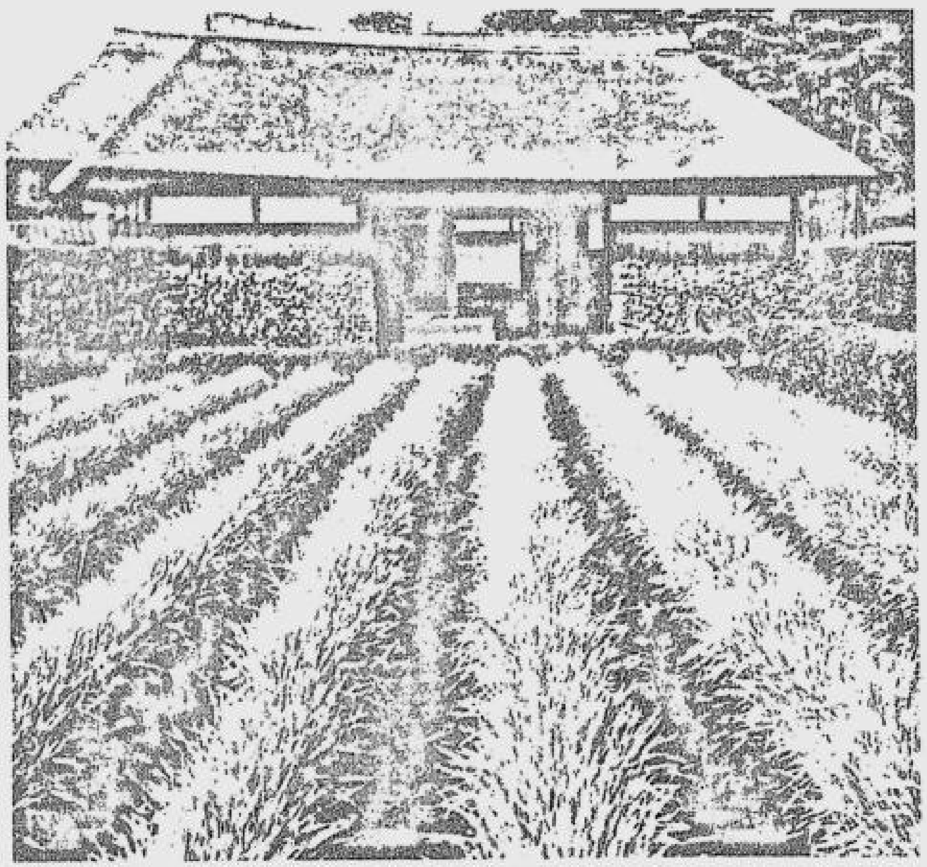
All of a sudden, executives and retirees are urged to get their hands "dirty" and become weekend farmers or *hacienderos*. To complete the concept of an integrated farm community, developers will even offer to have your rustic vacation homes built right beside your farms.

Laguna Properties Holdings Inc. president Manny Colayco confirms that farming estates belong to a new market niche. He said, however, that such a market would remain just that, a niche market, as there are many other options for leisure living.

LPHI's Jose Nolido agrees that farm estates fall into a niche market, and may continue to become one as long as its clients are confined to retirees.

Says Nolido: "This is just one aspect of retirement. Other retirees would probably prefer a beach resort, or a mountain resort. Retirees will have different preferences."

He says the preference for farm estates came about because of urban congestion. Such people who long for farm estates miss the country life and the open expanse that comes with it.


CULTIVATE your own vegetable field at LPHI's Hacienda Sta. Monica.

## Farm estates

Amid budding farm estate projects such as Filinvest's Nusa Dua modern residential farm estate in Tanza, Cavite; Landco Pacific Corp.'s residential farm estate Leisure Farms in Tagaytay; Mancon-CBDC's Lipa Farm Estates, a 20-hectare farm estate project that nestles in the foothills of the famous Mt. Malarayat, among others, come Ayala-subsidiary Laguna Properties Holdings Inc.'s banner farm estate

LPHI announced on Sept. 13 its 95-hectare Hacienda Sta. Monica and Villa Sta. Monica at the heart of Lipa City. The area is known for its cool climate, rich soil and is traditionally recognized as ideal for agriculture, horse breeding and flower farming. This would be the first time LPHI would venture in farm estate development, as it has been more known for its middle and mass housing projects.

## Integrated community dev't

Called an integrated community development project, LPHI markets its Hacienda Sta. Monica and Villa Sta. Monica as a farm estate and residential estate getaway that promises to free city dwellers from all that urban congestion and pollution, and let them wake up in the mornings with a view of Mount Malepunyo.

Here, you can stroll around fruit trees, grazing lands or flower fields. You can choose your property type. You can be busy running your *hacienda* or farm lot, and be sheltered in your rustic-style vacation home.

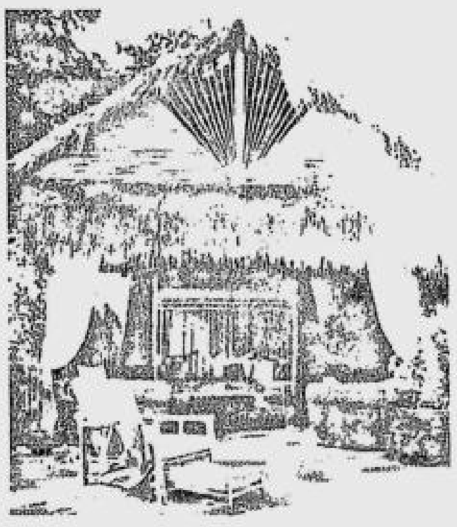
Site development is ongoing with a 20-meter-wide spine road. Buyers can also view home model units in the site. LPHI's turnover for the hacienda and villa is scheduled mid-year of 2003.

The property is composed of two distinct developments: a 65-hectare farm lot or *hacienda* type and a 30-hectare residential estate that is geared for middle-income buyers. The *hacienda* and farm lot buyers and the residents will share the same amenities at Hacienda Sta. Monica. These are the clubhouse, a swimming pool, jogging paths, tree-lined streets, basketball courts and even a meditative garden.

Overhead water tanks with deep-well pumps, electric, telephone and cable facilities are also on hand. The farm lots and Hacienda types are intended for farming activities, but owners have the option to build homes in their farm properties.

Added attractions are a landscaped playground area for kids and a commercial area for quick buying trips.

In all, there are 120 farm lots, each ranging from 750 square meters to 1,500 sq. m. Only about 40 farm lots are still available. The first phase of the Hacienda is composed of 12 4,000-sq.-m. to 5,000-sq.-m. lots. All of these have been sold, according to Colayco. The pressure is on to build the next phase of the Hacienda.


HACIENDA Sta. Monica is set in a cool and relaxing environment conducive for recreational and farming activities

## Market reaction

"We've underestimated the market reaction. We're rushing for another phase," he says.

Hacienda Sta. Monica and Villa Sta. Monica, according to Colayco, are LPHI's response to a particular market clamor for farm estates. He says these projects happened to be in a growth area that the LPHI had previously identified.

Are you a farming greenhorn but would love to have your own farm estate? No need to fear, says LHPI. Hacienda Sta. Monica keeps agricultural consultants on hand to assist farm beginners, and the Family Farm School will impart basic farming knowledge. Services such as farm maintenance and farm designs are available for a minimal fee. Wide varieties of palm trees, fruit-bearing trees and ornamental plants are supplied by the Flower Factory and Javilad Palms.

Farming has never been this glamorous, or easy.

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# Firms support 2002 Creba-HUDCC confab

MANUFACTURERS of construction materials, insurance companies, banking institutions, developers, builders and industry professionals have come out in support of the 2002 Chamber of Real Estate and Builders Associations (Creba) and Housing and Urban Development Coordinating Council (HUDCC) National Convention in Baguio City on Oct. 9-11.

The convention will be held at the Baguio Country Club with some guests being billeted at the new Manor Hotel of the Camp John Hay. As highlight of the convention, President Macapagal-Arroyo will be presented with a formal resolution committing the industry to deliver thousands of socialized and economic housing units to help boost the government's housing program for the homeless. The housing shortage is estimated at three million units.

Creba national president Florentino S. Dulalia Jr. and director Florante C. Ofrecio, overall convention chair, said that among the first sponsors of what is expected to be the biggest gathering of industry and government housing sector leaders and professionals, are:

Boysen Paints, Country Bankers Insurance Corp., Crown Asia Properties, Extraordinary Development Corp., R-II Builders Inc., FS Dulalia Realty, Durawood Construction and Supply Corp., Land Bank of the Philippines, V.V. Soliven Group of Companies, Cityland Inc., and the Homeowners Development Corp.

More companies are expected to support the industry convention through sponsorships.

Creba, in cooperation with the HUDCC, also presented Housing Expo 2002 titled "Pabahay at Buhay," a real estate exhibit infused with e-commerce technology, on Sept. 13-15 at the Megatrade Hall 2, SM Megamall, Mandaluyong City. The exhibit was organized by Creba national, Creba Youth and Convex International.

Participating exhibitors are A-Plus Living, Acqui, Archhikonst. Magazine, Amvel Land Development Corp., CPAC-Monier Phils.Inc., Creba Youth Business Matching, Creba USA, Charles Builders Co., Classic Billboards, Digital Design, Durawood Construction, Filinvest Alabang, Gotesco Electrical, Jaime Millan, Lexber Inc., Mirpuri Holdings and Development Corp., Moldex Realty Inc., New Pagcor, San Miguel Properties, Taytan Phils., V.V. Soliven, VazBuilt/Vasquez Building Commodities and Worldmaster Corp.

The convention coincides with the 29th founding anniversary of Creba, which is now the largest federation of the industry's real estate and building associations in the country. It counts on a membership of some 4,000 institutional, corporate and individual industry professionals. It has 42 regional and provincial chapters.

On Nov. 3, Creba national president Dulalia will lead national officers in formally establishing 10 Creba-USA chapters and one chapter in Vancouver, Canada and induct their officers. They will be the first chapters to be installed abroad. Later, Creba chapters will also be organized in Europe and other countries.

CUKINGNAN

## Philip Recto awardee off to Singapore

THE PHILIP Recto Design Excellence Awards instituted by the UP College of Architecture announced that Tisha SyCip Cukingnan, one of the awardees, recently left for Singapore to join Architects 61, one of the best architectural firms in Asia.

Cukingnan is a magna cum laude graduate and class valedictorian of batch 2002. She started her two-year training with Architects 61 in Singapore on Sept. 1 and joined Ligaya Meceda and Ingrid Niña Araneta, the previous Philip Recto awardees, at the same firm.

Founded in 1974, Architects 61 has designed many significant buildings in Singapore that include the Raffles City Complex, Treasury Building, UOB Plaza, Caltex House and UE Square and Tuas Technology Park. The firm also maintains branch offices in Kuala Lumpur and Penang.

Cukingnan also graduated from Brent International School Manila as high school class valedictorian in 1997. She is now a member of the international Phi Kappa Phi Honor Society.

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# REAL ESTATE

*Editor* **Cesar D. Mangawang**

# Strong economy key to RP realty boom

**By Charles E. Buban**

OFFICE SPACE

ILLUSTRATION: STEPH BRAVO

THE PHILIPPINES should strengthen its domestic economy if it intends to increase demand for its office and retail space.

In the second quarter report of the Asia Pacific Property Digest, Jones Lang LaSalle said that with the uncertainties on global economic outlook, the prospect of increased demand for office and retail space is likely to be greater in cities of countries with stronger domestic economies.

The leading real estate services and management firm cited the cities in China, Korea, India and Australia as likely to be stable in the near term.

"With some exceptions, demand-side weakness persists for commercial real estate throughout much of the Asia-Pacific," according to Tim Bellman, head research-Asia Pacific at Jones Lang LaSalle. "This resulted in stable or declining rents in most commercial office markets in most cities in the second quarter."

In the said Asia Pacific Property Digest, the office vacancy rate declined most significantly to 10.2 percent in Taipei and to 24.9 percent in Bangkok. In Taipei, the report said, this was a result of occupiers upgrading from Grade B to Grade A space. In Bangkok, it was largely a result of expansion of insurance, manufacturing and consultancy companies.

### IT offices boom

In the Philippines, vacancy declined slightly to 20.7 percent for "All Grade" office, while Grade A stood at 33.4 percent for the period given more flexible lease rates being offered and no new development in the quarter. Average rental rates in the area decreased further by 4.0 percent from the last quarter.

Office leasing activity in the Makati CBD and major business districts continue to be driven by a combination of new IT offices, according to the report.

These IT offices are looking for space or current tenants deciding to upgrade into newer offices. Supporting the demand for Philippine office market is the emergence of contact centers given the country's competitive attributes: a skilled and English-fluent workforce (third largest English speaking country in the world with 94 percent literacy rate), quality telecom infrastructure (route and vendor redundancy available given two to three prominent telco providers in one location), and low operational costs (savings of 25 percent to 40 percent).

### Bright spot

The Philippine retail sector, on the other hand is the only bright spot in the property subsector. It remains resilient given the sustained expansion of overseas remittances in the first half, according to the report.

Net factor income from abroad (NFIA) exhibited a plus 16 percent growth in the first half of the year, driving GNP to a 5.2 percent expansion in the second quarter. The rise in the NFIA is sourced from the rising compensation income of overseas Filipino workers.

With resilient consumer spending, retail areas continue to mushroom, especially in the outskirts of Manila. Retail areas from buildings 2 and 3 of the ongoing Greenbelt redevelopment were delivered during the quarter, adding a total of 34,000 sq. m. of leasable space. Greenbelt building 4, with a total size of 5,200 sq. m. is expected for completion before the end of 2003.

### Subdued

According to the Jones Lang LaSalle report, most expatriates leasing markets remained subdued in the second quarter as multinational companies have been reducing headcount and keeping tight control on housing budgets.

Luxury rents declined 4.1 percent in Hong Kong, 3.0 percent in Mumbai (South and Central) and 1.4 percent in Makati CBD and fringe areas.

Bangkok, Jakarta and Shanghai were exceptions. With active leasing markets and, in Bangkok with limited new supply, vacancy rates in these cities were lower and there was modest upward pressure on rents.

In the Philippines, demand for high-end residential property remains subdued as most developers have reconfigured supply to more affordable cuts in the Makati area. Average rents declined 1.37 percent from last quarter. The figure also represents a 6.1 percent decline year-on-year. Capital values continued to drop quarter-on-quarter with a decline of 1.26 percent, and a year-on-year fall of 4.65 percent.

Jones Lang LaSalle, the author of the report, provides comprehensive integrated expertise, including management services, transaction services and investment management services on local, regional and global level to owners, occupiers and investors. It is also the industry leader in property and corporate facility management services, with a portfolio of about 67 million sq. m. under management worldwide.

# Rescop celebrates decade of private sector, government partnership

A DECADE of private sector-government partnership through the Realty Service Council of the Philippines (Rescop) in fostering professional and competent real estate services to the public, will be celebrated tonight.

Leaders, officers and members of member-associations are expected to join Rescop's 10th anniversary evening program at the Manila Peninsula Hotel ballroom in Makati City for exchange of information, business networking and fellowship.

Trade and Industry Secretary Manuel A. Roxas II himself will grace the occasion as guest of honor and speaker. Rescop is the advisory body of the Department of Trade and Industry with its Bureau of Trade Regulation and Consumer Protection (BTRCP) as Rescop member and with its bureau director as chair.

Under the program theme "Rescop: A Decade of Government and Private Sector Partnership," the council will hand out recognition plaques to nine real estate sector leaders who served as Rescop heads over the last 10 years. They are director Ma. Teresa Arao-Mahiwo of the Bureau of Trade Regulation and Consumer Protection (BTRCP); Fernando M. Miranda Jr., Florentino S. Dulalia Jr., Domingo D. de Vera, Jesus L. Motoomull, Lucia A. Aquino and the late Alberto E. Filamor.

For the last few years, Rescop has been forging closer interaction between the BTRCP and the real estate service sector. This facilitates government monitoring, regulation and consultation with the sector for needed reforms, including the passage of legislation, for the various professional facets of the real estate industry.

More significantly, Rescop has brought together the leaders of the major real estate associations to work toward attaining common objectives, especially efficient, competent and professional real estate services to respond to the varying needs of the public.

New real estate brokers, appraisers and consultants, who recently passed their respective licensure exams of the BTRCP, will take their oath. Newly elected officers of the Institute of Philippine Real Estate Appraisers (Iprea) and the Realty Service Practitioners Multi-Purpose Cooperative (RSPMPC) will also be inducted.

The anniversary program is being organized by a special committee headed by Oscar P. Garcia, president, Institute of Philippine Real Estate Consultants (Iprec), and Federico E. Ruiz, president, Real Estate Brokers Association of the Philippines (Rebap). Working closely with the group are Rescop president Florentino S. Dulalia Jr. and vice chair Fernando M. Miranda Jr.

Rescop is composed of 11 real estate associations, namely: Chamber of Real Estate and Builders Associations (Creba), Iprea, Iprec, N.A.R. Philippines Inc. (NAR Phils.), National Real Estate Association (NREA), Philippine Association of Realty Appraisers (Para), Philippine Association of Realty Consultants & Specialists (PARCS), Philippine Association of Realtors Board Inc. (Pareb), Philippine Council of Real Estate Educators (Philcore), Rebap and Realty Owners Association of the Philippines (ROAP). The Department of Trade and Industry's BTRCP is the 12th member.

The 2001-2002 Rescop officers include director Mahiwo, chair; De Vera (Creba), 2001 vice chair; Fernando M. Miranda Jr. (ROAP), 2002 vice chair; Dulalia (PARCS), president; Ruben B. Palacio Jr. (NREA), executive vice president; Adriana M. Macavinta (Iprec), VP-consultant; and Rodolfo B. Leonen (Iprea), VP-appraiser.

Others are Angelina B. dela Cruz (NAR Phils.), VP-broker; Amelita E. Sarmiento (Pareb), VP-information technology; Rafael P. Pula (Creba), VP-housing and development; Eduardo G. Ong (Philcore), secretary general; Carolina Q. Alvarez (Para), treasurer; and Celia A. Umali (NREA), PRO. Mahiwo has taken a leave of absence since July and Jesus Matoomull has been designated officer in charge of her BTRCP and Rescop positions. *(PLG News & Views)*

**SEATED from left are lawyer Joey Mendoza and Handyman SVP Robina Gokongwei-Pe. Standing from left: Handyman consultant Graham Coates, president Willy Co and incoming GM Jody Gadia.**

# Robinsons Handyman launches new project

ROBINSONS Handyman recently launched the "Donate-A-Nail" project at the Manila Galleria Suites in Ortigas Center. This is in support of Habitat for Humanity Philippines' aim of providing marginal income earners houses they could call their own.

Under the scheme, participating trade partners of Handyman are offering substantial discounts to its customers on various building tools included in Habitat for Humanity's wish list. The discounts are offered until Sept. 26 in all Handyman branches nationwide.

These tools include woodsaws, hacksaws, chisels, hammers, shovels, screwdrivers, measuring and steel tapes, pliers, nails, paint and steel brushes—items which were also turned over to the organization during the launch attended by Robinsons Handyman officers led by Robina Gokongwei-Pe, Willy Co, Ronnie Ong and Jody Gadia and Habitat for Humanity officials Jose Maria Mendoza and Christine Cenal.

Customers who purchase any of these items until Sept. 26 may donate them to Handyman's "Donate-A-Nail" project through any of the designated boxes that can be found in Handyman outlets. They may also make their contributions through Habitat for Humanity's "Tulong Mo, Tahanan Ko" coin banks that will be placed inside the stores.

During the launch, Handyman also endorsed a check as its donation to a recipient in the accredited list of Habitat for Humanity. This will be used for the construction of the beneficiary's house, which started this month, and will hopefully be ready for occupany before the year ends.

Handyman is one of the country's leading exponents in home improvement needs with an extensive nationwide network of 31 branches to date. Customers will find the ultimate shopping convenience in Handyman stores. It carries a wide selection of products that include electrical supplies, car accessories, carpentry tools, home decor and accents, gardening equipment, and kitchen, bedroom and bathroom merchandise.

For more information about the "Donate-A-Nail" project, please visit any of Handyman's outlets in Metro Manila, including its new branch at Isetann Recto, and key cities in the provinces. Slated to open soon is Handyman at the Citysquare in Malabon.

# One-stop shop for furniture, woodworks

KLAPPSTUHL Inc., a sister company of export-based furniture firm Rota Mundial International, was essentially set up to service the needs of the local furniture market. Over the years the firm found itself increasingly drawn to the various needs of its clients that include interior finishing and construction.

In the beginning, Klappstuhl people were called upon to share their experience regarding problems with the use of space in relation to their furniture. Soon, they found themselves solving complex interior construction problems.

Klappstuhl formed four highly specialized teams and staffed these with people well trained in their specific tasks. Each team is led by an able and dedicated project manager who serves as team leader.

The team leader is tasked with the day-to-day coordination of work between the designer and the carpenters, painters, electricians, plumbers, masons, wallpaper installers and other skills that a project may require.

The objective is to allow architects, interior designers and clients to do away with the tedious task of having to deal with various groups of people involved in a project. This means tighter coordination, reduced downtime, minimized cost and the possibility of missed deadlines.

Klappstuhl has branches at Robinsons Galleria (697-5385, 635-8125) and SM North Edsa (925-0814).

# Value-for-money condos seen boosting property market

CONDOMINIUM projects that feature efficient home designs and layouts combined with superior amenities, a strategic location and flexible payment terms will continue to be the growth drivers for the real estate industry in the next few years.

According to Megaworld Corp. vice president for sales and marketing Rosemarie Cambaliza, such developments have proven attractive to home buyers and property investors, especially since current market prices are at very attractive levels.

### Prime consideration

At the same time, this growing trend, Cambaliza said, has challenged property developers—big and small alike—to make value for money a prime consideration in the planning and design of their projects.

Said Cambaliza: "With the weak economic environment, the condominium property sector is very much a buyer's market. Thus, developers have been offering new products with more features and innovations than ever before, and even banks are coming up with more affordable financing packages for home buyers."

### Investment option

One of the most attractive investment options for an upscale market is Forbeswood Heights Luxury Garden Residences, a six-tower residential development of property giant Megaworld and Bonifacio West Development Corp. at the Bonifacio Global City.

Conceptualized as a luxury enclave, Forbeswood Heights offers spacious executive studio and one-bedroom residences, which come in 36 and 48 or 59 square meters, respectively, complemented by a host of lifestyle amenities amid a refreshing park setting.

### Ideal location

Set in a vantage location near the Manila Golf and Country Club, Manila Polo Club and Forbes Park, Forbeswood Heights is minutes away from important destinations within the Global City including the e-Square IT Park, The Fort, Bonifacio Stopover, PriceSmart Warehouse Club and the Japanese, British and American international schools.

Cambaliza also noted the ideal proximity of the development to the country's premier business and financial hubs, the Makati and Ortigas central business districts and the Ninoy Aquino International Airport, through Edsa, C-5 and the South Superhighway.

### Resort-style amenities

The development has its own 5,500-sq. m. central park that boasts resort-style amenities such as a tropical swimming pool complex with a 25-meter-long pool, a free-form pool and a children's pool, a lagoon, a competition-size tennis court, a children's playground, fitness stations and mini-putting greens.

Forbeswood Heights is an anchor component of Forbes Town Center, a P15-billion, five-hectare mixed-use development at the West Crescent Park district in the former military facility. Lining the development's Forbes Town Road is a kilometer-long shopping and entertainment strip that will feature the trendiest shops, theme bars and restaurants in the metropolis, similar to the Eastwood City Walk in Libis.

What's more, Forbeswood Heights offers an attractive scheme that gives buyers a choice of either a no-down-payment or a low-monthly amortization plan suited to executives, expatriates, young urban professionals, newlyweds and even middle-income families.

# RP's biggest retailer plans $200-M bond float

SM Investments Corp., holding company of retail tycoon Henry Sy, said yesterday that it was considering a global bond offer of about $200 million to take advantage of the market's strong appetite for Philippine debt papers.

In a statement, the company said it had appointed ABN Amro, JP Morgan and Salomon Smith Barney as financial advisers for the offering.

It gave no other details, but Jeffrey Lim, vice president for finance of SM Prime Holdings Inc., later said it was looking to raise about $200 million for "general expansion" purposes.

No timing has yet been decided, Lim said.

Jose Sio, chief financial officer of the SM group, said SM Investments wanted to take advantage of the low interest rates in the offshore market and the demand for Philippine corporate papers.

Lim told reporters at the sidelines of the Philippine Stock Exchange road show that SM Investments had yet to finalize the amount of the proposed offering.

He said the initial plan was to raise about $200 million, "but the figures are still moving."

SM Investments bought last week 175 million shares in top food and beverage firm San Miguel Corp for P9.63 billion.

The transaction represents an estimated 6.2-percent stake in San Miguel.

SM Investments bought the shares from the SMC Retirement Fund at P55 each in a block sale arranged by ABN Amro.

The shares it bought entitle SM Investments to a board seat in San Miguel, brewers of the popular beer with the same name.

Apart from San Miguel and mall developer SM Prime, Sy has investments in property holding firm SM Development Corp., property developer Highlands Prime Inc., Banco de Oro Universal Bank and China Banking Corp.

*Doris C. Dumlao*

# RP beef imports to grow 100%, Aussie group says

**By Abigail L. Ho**

A SUPPORT organization for Australian livestock producers has forecast a 100-percent growth in the Philippines' beef imports in the next 10 years, although this surge will start with a 5-percent contraction next year.

In an interview, Meat and Livestock Australia regional manager for south Asia Timothy Kelf said the demand would be fueled by the Philippines' beef-eating culture.

The country's per capita consumption of beef is much higher than those of its neighbors, he said.

On average, Filipinos eat around 5 kilos of beef every year. Most nations in Southeast Asia eat, at most, 3 kilos annually.

Kelf stressed, however, that his 100-percent growth projection in Philippine beef imports would only be met if the domestic economy would improve and the population's purchasing power would increase.

He said the country's overall beef imports dropped by 20 percent last year because of the "mad cow disease" scare, but the local market had already recovered.

Kelf said next year's prospects for Philippine beef exports were still not bright, as the country's producers were getting still competition from those in South America, particularly in Brazil.

"Brazil is now shipping more to the Philippines, and that's our cause of decline. The beef market is still quite strong here, so we're still confident. The economic situation is the only thing that's holding the consumers back from buying beef," Kelf said.

Government statistics said, however, that the Philippines was turning to Papua New Guinea and Vanuatu for its cattle requirements due to rising cattle prices in Australia.

The Department of Agriculture's Bureau of Animal Industry said cattle from these countries cost about P15,000 to P20,000 per head, which was 20 percent less than Australian cattle.

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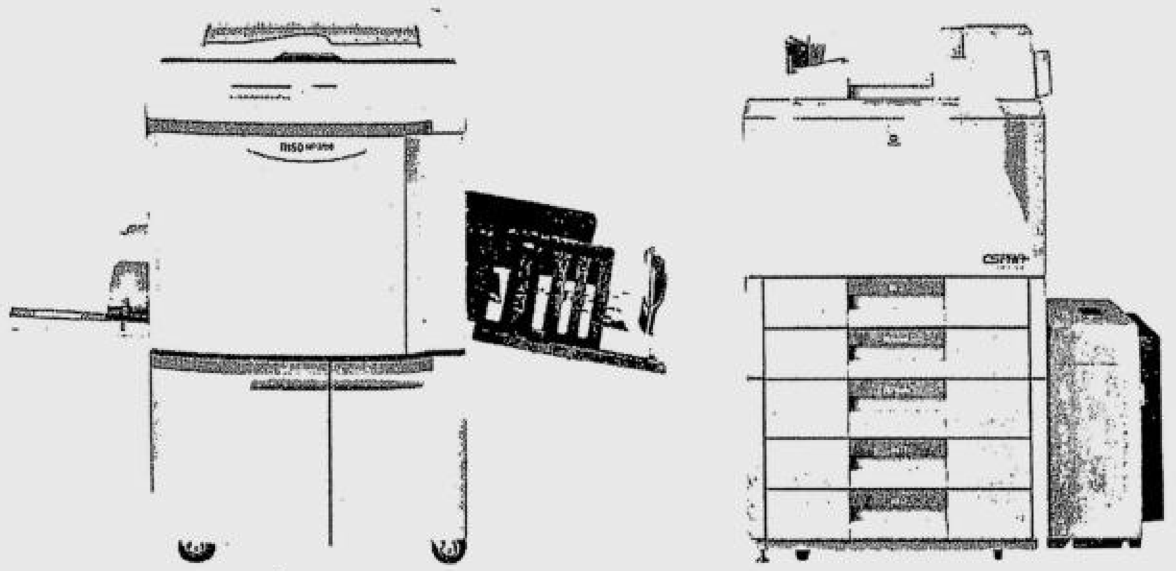

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Office Staff Col grad/u-grad w/-w/o exp 4370454 Edna

## PUBLIC NOTICES

### ANNOUNCEMENT

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### PERSONAL

PRAYER TO THE BLESSED VIRGIN
(Never known to fail)

O most beautiful flower of Mount Carmel, fruitful vine splendor of Heaven, Blessed Mother of the Son of God, Immaculate Virgin, assist me in this necessity. Oh Star in the Sea help and show me, herein, you are my mother. Oh Holy Mother of God, Queen of Heaven and Earth! I humbly beseech you, from bottom of my heart to succor me in this necessity. There are none that can withstand your power. Oh show me, herein you are mother.

Oh Mary, conceived without sin, pray for us who have recoursed to thee (3x).

Holy Mother, I place this cause in Your hands (3x).

Holy Spirit, You who solve all problems, light all roads that I can attain my goal. You who gave me the divine gift to forgive and forget all evil against me and that, in all instances in my life, You are with me. I want, in this short prayer, to thank You for all things as You confirm once again that I never wanted to be separated from You in eternal glory. Thank You for Your mercy towards me. The person must say this prayer for three consecutive days. After three days, the request will be granted. This prayer must be published after the favor is granted.

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### LEGAL NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that the estate of PEDRO TADIOS who has been missing since March 1994 was extrajudicially settled among his heirs per Doc# 482, Page# 96, Book# VIII series of 2002 of notary public LEOPOLDO ULANDAY of Quezon City.
(PDI-Sept. 10, 17 & 24, 2002)

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NATIONAL FOOD AUTHORITY
Quezon City

## ANNOUNCEMENT

The NFA wishes to announce the schedule of vessels being utilized in the government's imports. Information on vessels other than those listed hereunder which are loaded with rice from other origin and docked at any Philippine port may be relayed to the Philippine Coast Guard, the Bureau of Customs (BOC) and the National Food Authority.

| ORIGIN | CURRENTLY LOADING IN SUPPLY COUNTRY | QTY. (IN MT) | CURRENTLY SAILING TO PHIL. PORT | QTY. (IN MT) | CURRENTLY UNLOADING | QTY. (IN MT) | DISPORT | OTHER NOMINATED VESSELS | QTY. (IN MT) |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| INDIA | 1. MV JA GANG | 11,500.00 | 1. MV RADIANT STAR | 22,000.00 | 1. MV HENG SHAN | 15,049.49 | ILOILO | 1. MV HENG SHUI | 13,500.00 |
| | 2. MV APJ SUSHMA | 22,500.00 | 2. MV GEM OF TUTICOR | 32,000.00 | 2. MV C HARMONY | 26,000.00 | MANILA | 2. MV XUAN CHENG | 13,000.00 |
| | 3. MV HERMES | 13,500.00 | 3. MV FENG | 17,000.00 | 3. MV CHUNGGIN 2 | 16,200.00 | CEBU | 3. MV ASEAN GLORY | 17,900.00 |
| | 4. MV MORAKOT NAREE | 15,000.00 | 4. MV DIANA | 16,000.00 | 4. MV NOK NAN | 13,950.00 | SUBIC | 4. MV JAT NAMU | 12,000.00 |
| | | | | | 5. MV STAR 2000 | 32,000.00 | BATANGAS | 5. MV SHANG YUAN MEN | 13,000.00 |
| VIETNAM | 5. MV HA NAM V. 02 | 5,800.00 | | | 6. MV HA DONG | 6,000.00 | ZAMBOANGA | 6. MV VINH AN | 6,000.00 |
| | 6. MV SO. STAR 2 | 5,700.00 | | | 7. MV DONG HA | 10,000.00 | DAVAO | 7. MV VINH LONG | 5,950.00 |
| | | | | | 8. MV SONG DUONG | 14,100.00 | MANILA | 8. MV VINH PHUOC | 10,800.00 |
| | | | | | 9. MV YU JIA | 13,500.00 | MANILA | 9. MV SONG DUONG | 14,100.00 |
| | | | | | 10. MV FOKUS | 7,000.00 | SUBIC | 10. MV BINH PHUOC | 5,600.00 |
| | | | | | 11. MV TRADE ETERNITY | 2,225.00 | MANILA | 11. MV HA DONG | 6,500.00 |
| | | | | | 12. MV DAINTY RIVER | 4,835.00 | MANILA | 12. MV VINH HUNG | 6,000.00 |
| | | | | | 13. MV BEAUTY RIVER | 2,200.00 | MANILA | 13. MV CABOT ORIENT | 3,500.00 |
| | | | | | 14. MV PRETTY RIVER | 3,201.60 | MANILA | 14. MV TO LICH | 14,100.00 |
| | | | | | | | | 15. MV HUNG VUONG V.0 | 6,500.00 |
| | | | | | | | | 16. MV HUNG VUONG V.0 | 3,600.00 |
| | | | | | | | | 17. MV HA NAM | 5,000.00 |
| | | | | | | | | 18. MV HA DONG | 6,600.00 |
| | | | | | | | | 19 MV SO STAR | 6,700.00 |
| | | | | | | | | 20 MV YU JIA | 13,500.00 |
| | | | | | | | | 21 MV FO KUS | 7,000.00 |
| | | | | | | | | 22 MV F FREIGHTER | 5,600.00 |
| | | | | | | | | 23 MV BUDDY RAKHAADE | 10,000.00 |
| | | | | | | | | 24 MV THAI BINH | 14,100.00 |
| TOTAL | | 74,000.00 | | 87,000.00 | | 166,261.09 | | | 220,550.00 |

(PDI-Sept. 17, 2002)

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## CERILO 'LILOY' REYES SAPINOSO

*Peacefully joined our Lord on Sept. 13, 2002*
*at the age of 69.*

He is survived by his wife **Adyang**; children **Fer & Margie, Fe & Erning, Eggy & Bubut**; grandchildren **Fergie, April, Shiela, Faith & Marc**.

His remains lie in state at 333 Sol P. Bella St., Imus, Cavite. Interment will be on Sept. 21, 2002 at Angelus Eternal Garden-Imus.

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*"You will forever be in our hearts, daddy"*

## ALFREDO E. SILPEDES

*Peacefully joined his Creator on the 14th of September, 2002*
*at the age of 58.*

His loving wife **Amelita**; children **Aleksey, Auragae, Aeryan**; brothers, brothers-in-law, sisters-in-law, nieces and nephews; other relatives and friends request the pious readers to pray for his eternal happiness in Heaven.

His remains lie in state at Arlington East The Garden Chapels, Inc., C. Raymundo St., cor. Mercedes Ave., San Miguel, Pasig City

Interment will be on Wednesday, September 18, 2002 at the Holy Gardens, Antipolo City after the 8:00 a.m. Mass.

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# CLASSIFIEDS

## INQUIRER CLASSIFIEDS

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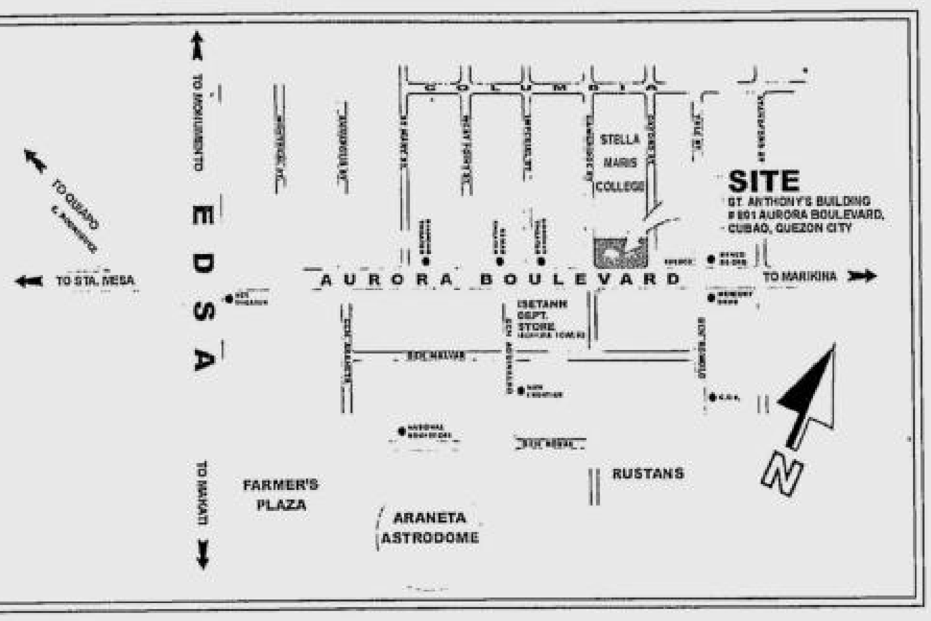
For inquiries, please call **912-9008** to **11**.



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### *PHILIPPINE SOCIETY FOR TRAINING AND DEVELOPMENT*

## PSTD NATIONAL CONVENTION

### OCTOBER 9-11, 2002

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**KEYNOTE ADDRESS:**

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**UNIVERSITY OF THE PHILIPPINES**
College, Laguna

## INVITATION TO BID

The University of the Philippines Los Baños (UPLB) invites interested parties to submit sealed bids for the public bidding of Laboratory Equipment for the College of Veterinary Medicine (CVM) with a total approved budget of P2,999,929.70 and for the Institute of Plant Breeding (IPB) with a total approved budget of P2,865,000.00.

Interested parties may secure bid documents and the checklist of the qualification requirements from Supply and Property Management Office (SPMO).

The schedule of the bidding activities is as follows:

| Particulars | Date/Time | Place |
|---|---|---|
| Issuance of Bid Documents | Sept. 25-30, 2002/<br>8:30 a.m.-5:30 p.m. | SPMO |
| Pre-Bid Conference | Oct. 8, 2002, Tue/10:00 a.m. | SPMO |
| Opening/submission of bids | Oct. 23, 2002, Wed./10:00 a.m. | SPMO |

Bidders shall submit two (2) sealed envelopes containing a) TECHNICAL DOCUMENTS (e.g. qualification requirements indicated in the checklist, bid security as to form, amount and validity period, authority of signatory, after sales service/parts, catalogues/brochures/other literatures, etc.), and b) FINANCIAL DOCUMENTS at the Supply and Property Management Office, UPLB.

The UPLB reserves the right to reject any and all bids, or declare a failure of bidding, or not award the contract, if there is evidence of collusion between relevant public, officers or employees of the agency or the BAC and any of the bidders, or among the bidders, or between bidders and third parties, including any act which restricts, suppresses or nullifies competition, or if the BAC is found to have failed to follow the prescribed bidding procedures. The agency also reserves the right to waive any required formality in the bids received, provided that such waiver does not refer to a major deviation in a bid or any requirement provided in these IRR pertaining to the substance of a bid.

(Sgd.) DR. TERESITA M. ESPINO
Chair, BAC

(PDI-Sept. 17 & 18, 2002)

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Republic of the Philippines
**DEPARTMENT OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY**

## INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The Department of Science and Technology—Bids and Awards Committee (DOST-Wide BAC) hereby invites interested contractors who are registered with PCAB with a project size and range of at least **"Medium A"** for building, to apply for eligibility and to bid in the forthcoming public bidding for the **Completion of Dormitory Building I of the Philippine Science High School Eastern Visayas Campus (PSHS-EVC)**. The approved budget for the purpose is P6,938,827.50, chargeable against the general funds of PSHS-EVC, Palo, Leyte.

Only those eligible bidders evaluated by the DOST-Wide BAC shall be allowed to participate in the bidding.

All eligible bidders may secure the necessary documents on the following dates.

| | |
|---|---|
| Issuance of Eligibility Requirements | September 20, 2002, Rm. 207 DOST Bldg. Gen. Santos Ave., Bicutan, Taguig |
| Submission of Eligibility Requirements | September 26, 2002 until 5:00 p.m. at Rm. 207, DOST Bldg., Gen. Santos Ave Bicutan, Taguig |
| Issuance of plans and other bidding documents | October 1, 2002 at PSHS-EVC, c/o Ms. Cynthia Ocaña |
| Pre-bid Conference I | October 8, 2002, 10:00 a.m., Conference Rm. PSHS-EVC (Palo, Leyte) |
| Opening of bids | October 22, 2002; 10:00 a.m. Conference Rm. PSHS-EVC (Palo, Leyte) |

Prospective bidders may surf our DOST website addressed at http://www.dost.gov.ph. Eligible bidders may secure plans and other bidding documents upon payment of P5,000.00 non-refundable at PSHS Eastern Visayas Campus.

The DOST-Wide BAC reserves the right to reject any or all bids without offering any reason, waive any formality and make an award to the bidder whose bid proposal is the lowest calculated responsive bid and advantageous to the government.

(Sgd.) JOCELYN G. ALVARADO
Assistant Secretary and Chairperson, DOST-Wide BAC

(PDI-Sept. 17 & 19, 2002)

## AFTA'S PROTOCOL AGREEMENT

# RP to seek tariff cut delay for more goods

By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.

THE PHILIPPINES could invoke other products aside from petrochemicals for tariff cut delays under the Protocol agreement of the Asean Free Trade Area-Common Effective Preferential Tariff (Afta-CEPT).

Trade and Industry Secretary Manuel A. Roxas II said the government was still reviewing petitions from other industries such as steel, tiles, paper, shoes and cement for exemption from the Afta-CEPT program, which would reduce all duties on intra-Asean traded goods to no more than 5 percent starting next year.

The Philippines recently invoked for petrochemicals the Protocol of the Afta-CEPT, which allows Asean members to suspend the implementation of a concession, such as the lowering of tariffs specifically on the last batch of products for transfer from the exclusion list to the inclusion list.

Philippine petrochemical firms had sought the doubling of the tariff on resins to 30 percent and the retention of this rate up to 2010 to give the industry more time to advance from infancy stage before competing with advanced industries in other countries notably Singapore.

Roxas explained that the Protocol was like an emergency measure that allowed Asean members to remove certain products from the list of goods covered by the tariff reduction program.

"We have to identify exactly what products will be removed from the list and for how long we intend to keep the tariffs at current levels," Roxas added. He reiterated that while the Philippines was committed to Asean integration, "we must reserve the option to avail ourselves of relief measures whenever our domestic industry restructuring program calls for it."

Aside from the Philippines, only Malaysia has so far invoked this provision to delay the liberalization of its automotive industry.

Earlier, the Association of Petrochemical Manufactuers of the Philippines expressed support to Roxas' move to invoke certain protocols in seeking deferment in the submission of certain tariff lines into the inclusion list.

APMP said extending temporary relief to the industry to allow its development was expected to strengthen investor confidence in the country.

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# Gov't to sell stakes in PNB, Meralco soon

By Elena R. Torrijos

THE GOVERNMENT plans to fully privatize Philippine National Bank "as soon as possible" and to dispose of its 10-percent stake in Manila Electric Co. "as soon as practical."

This was disclosed by Finance Secretary Jose Isidro Camacho during the open forum that followed his luncheon speech at the Philippine Stock Exchange's local road show yesterday.

"The timetable for PNB is 'as soon as possible' but this is qualified on whether the bank can undertake deliverables and market conditions permitting," Camacho said. "There will have to be delivery of real changes, delivery of better performance and delivery of financial restructuring (by PNB)," Camacho said.

After a debt-to-equity conversion of P7.8 billion of P23.9 billion in outstanding loans to PNB, the government now holds a 45-percent stake in PNB through convertible preferred shares. Erstwhile PNB majority shareholder Lucio Tan also owns an equal number of common shares in the bank. The government and Tan earlier this year agreed to jointly sell or facilitate the sale of a majority stake in PNB to a strategic third-party investor within five years after the execution of a memorandum of agreement last May to rehabilitate PNB.

PNB has been losing money for the past several years and the new management led by PNB president Lorenzo Tan has projected that the bank could post a turnaround by the third or fourth year from rehabilitation.

Camacho said the government was planning to sell the state's 10-percent stake in Meralco once the Energy Regulatory Board has decided on the firm's petition for a rate increase charged to customers.

Camacho said that regardless of the outcome of the decision, it would be a good time to sell the government's stake because the decision would allow the market to reflect the true value of the equity holdings.

Camacho said that in 2003, the government was planning to "re-energize" its privatization initiatives not only by selling the portfolio held by the Privatization Management Office, but also by disposing of or rationalizing the use of idle government assets.

Camacho disclosed that the government was considering appointing a new finance undersecretary who would concentrate mainly on the government's privatization program.

# Petronas wants strategic interest in naphtha plant

By Ronnel W. Domingo

MALAYSIAN oil giant Petroliam Nasional Bhd. (Petronas) is firming up plans to own a strategic stake in the proposed $600-million naphtha cracker in Bataan as it awaits a report on the project's feasibility study.

A source privy to the matter said Petronas was eyeing a stake bigger than the previously publicized 20 percent.

"(The Malaysians') planned investment in the naphtha project is substantial," the source said. "Petronas wants to be a strategic partner in the project."

He added that a detailed announcement could be expected after Petronas was apprised of the project's feasibility.

In a separate interview, Philippine National Oil Co. president Thelmo Cunanan said the firm was awaiting the final report on the comprehensive feasibility study, which would be turned in before the end of the month. It is being conducted by Toyo and Stanford Research Institute.

"An initial report was presented to us in July, but we asked for clarifications and more data on some (items)," Cunanan told the INQUIRER.

State-run PNOC is the lead proponent of the petrochemical project and wants a 34-percent stake in it.

Cunanan said in an earlier interview that PNOC would shell out $100 million mostly from its internal funds to secure a 34-percent equity in the project. The amount is based on a 50-50 debt-to-equity ratio.

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 17, 2002

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

For feedback, text us at (0918)917-5026 or email us at lifestyle@inquirer.com.ph

Fitness LIFESTYLE

Editor Chelo Banal-Formoso

ILLUSTRATION: ALBERT RODRIGUEZ

Yoga-related problems are due to poorly trained instructors, competitive students and overcrowded classes

# Why yoga injuries are on the rise

WHAT Jane Fonda did for aerobics, Madonna did first for women lifting weights and, now, for yoga. Thus, what used to be an exotic fitness specialty has become a full-blown mainstream trend with 18 million participants in the US alone. For the most part, this has been a positive development because people are now giving flexibility training the respect and importance it deserves.

**WELL AND GOOD**

*Tina Juan*

Yoga, as exercise, also develops strength in a more functional manner than lifting weights does, so it is an excellent cross training activity. The focus and concentration skills that you develop from practicing yoga can be used in real-life situations. Lastly, because yoga puts a great emphasis on breathing (as they say, without the breath it is not yoga), it is a powerful tool for relieving stress and anxiety.

Personally, I am happy to see the application of yoga as an exercise format. It ought to have mainstream recognition. Those who were practicing yoga in the '70s were usually branded a hippie and a weirdo for doing it. However, because the current interest in yoga has been so explosive, yoga injuries are on the rise.

As yoga expert Mara Carrico told Idea Health and Fitness Source magazine, "Sometimes, it seems that the only thing growing more quickly than the number of yoga classes offered in fitness facilities is the number of injuries sustained by eager participants."

This saddens me because I don't want to see yoga go the way of kickboxing, which is on a decline because of the high rate of injuries. Step aerobics also lost a lot of enthusiasts due to knee injuries. Just like the injuries sustained from these two forms of group exercise, yoga-related injuries are usually due to three main reasons: poorly trained instructors, competitive students and overcrowded classes.

## Poorly trained instructors

Because of the great demand, there is a shortage of well-trained "pure" yoga teachers. Also, since many people practice yoga as exercise and not as a philosophy, they prefer to do it in a gym with a fitness instructor.

Nothing wrong with that if the instructor has a solid background in anatomy and kinesiology (the science of body movement), has taken specialty courses in teaching yoga, and is teaching basic yoga poses. After all, many of the traditional stretches taught in gyms were inspired by yoga.

However, since the more athletic and aggressive styles of power yoga and Ashtanga are the vogue, many fitness instructors are in over their heads. They are teaching advanced and demanding poses that they themselves do not fully understand, to students whose bodies are not strong or flexible enough.

Some advanced yoga poses require several years before they can be safely mastered, and people are attempting to do them within a few months or, worse, within a few sessions, because their teachers are not teaching them more appropriate modifications.

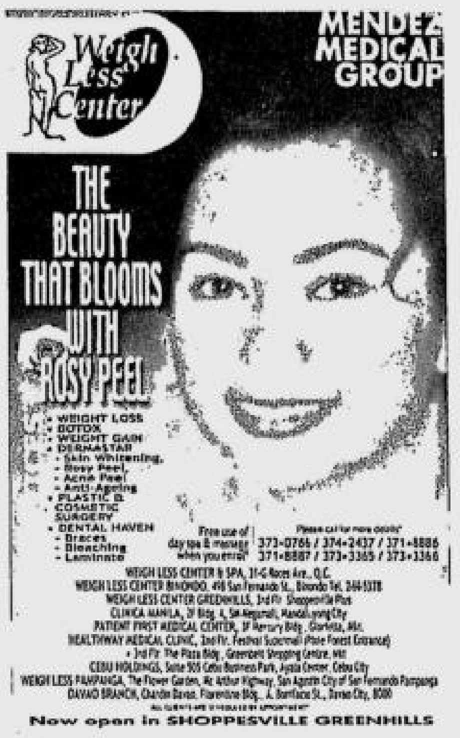
## Competitive students

Instructors cannot fully take the blame for the rise in injuries. Overly enthusiastic and competitive students also have to say "mea culpa." It's that old devil of an inflated ego that gets them into trouble. Many pure yoga teachers are very concerned about this decidedly un-yoga-like attitude, destroying the essence of what yoga is really all about. Since this destructive, competitive spirit is such a major cause of yoga-related injuries, and it is the one thing that a yoga participant has direct control over, I will go more in-depth into this in next week's column.

## Overcrowded classes

Just like academic classes that are too full, overcrowded fitness classes mean that the teacher cannot possibly give his or her full attention to everyone. In kickboxing classes, there is also the danger of kicking your class

WHY YOGA/p. C2



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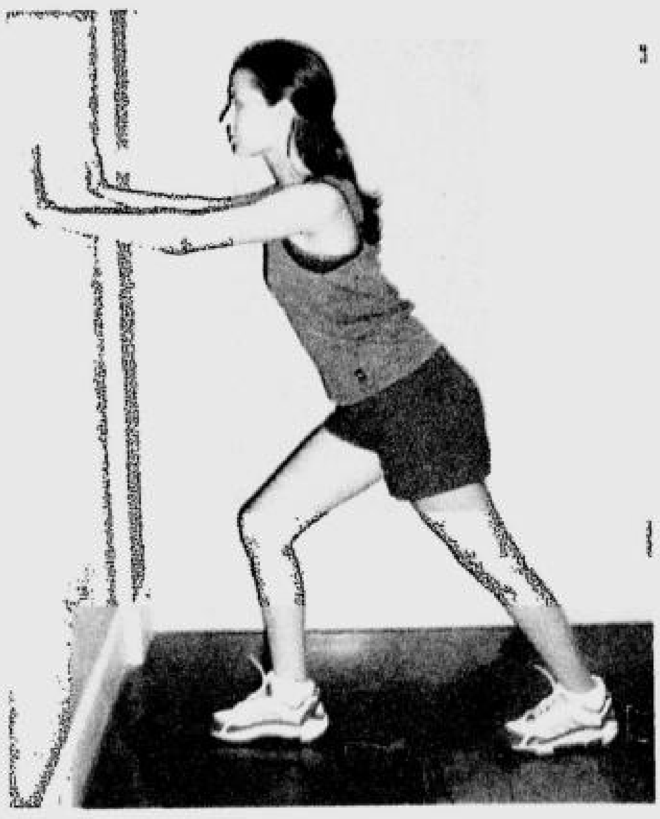
## EXERCISE OF THE WEEK

# *Standing calf stretch*



DO this stretch several times a day if you wear high heels to keep the calf muscles from getting tight. This stretch also benefits people who play sports that require a lot of jumping.

People who run or walk uphill will also feel the lengthening effect on their calf muscles.

**Equipment:**

None

**Exercise:**

Stand 2-3 ft from a wall. Lean forward, supporting your body weight with your bent arms. Straighten one leg behind. Press your heel to the floor. Hold the stretch in the calf for at least 10 seconds.

Release the stretch and repeat. Do the other side.

**Performance tips:**

Keep your foot facing front, and not the side, to properly lengthen and stretch the calf muscle. Keep your heel pressed to the floor throughout the stretch.

Keep your movement steady but continue to breathe normally. Avoid bouncing your heel backwards.

**Repetitions:**

Repeat as many times throughout the day as you feel necessary to keep your calves from tightening. Hold for at least 10 seconds each time.

# Why yoga injuries are on the rise

From page C1

mate. In yoga, the problem is falling down on your neighbor.

Last month, the New York Times interviewed a physiotherapist whose main source of income these days is from people with yoga injuries. The therapist said, "People fall over all the time. One client's neck got wrenched when someone doing a headstand in the middle of the room fell onto him. My client, in turn, knocked over the person next to him. With classes so crowded these days, falling can have a domino effect."

I can vouch for the overcrowded classes. About two years ago, my cousin invited my friend and I to attend his yoga class in Santa Monica, California. He called it "bohemian yoga." No kidding. I was totally unprepared for what I saw. The lines to the class spilled over to the street and around the building. We were at least a hundred people in what looked like a community social hall. The mats were exactly one inch apart at the sides and from top to bottom. With everyone inhaling, exhaling and sweating, the windows, which were closed, had rivulets of fluid running down. Everyone was drenched in so much sweat that it looked like we had taken a communal bath.

There were a few moments when I was gasping for air and almost walked out. But it was such an absurd experience that I told myself I would stick around to the bitter end for "research" purposes. Of course, it is something I never want to do again.

To add to the strangeness of the whole affair, the teacher was walking around with nothing on but surfer shorts and, of course, looked like an Italian demigod (which is why I suspect three-fourths of the class were women). He wasn't the only one who was half-dressed. Most of the men were similarly clad and many women were in bikinis. In comparison, my friend and I looked like we had come straight out of a convent even though we were wearing workout outfits. Only in Southern California...

As the son of a famous yoga teacher told a writer for Yoga Journal, "If my father only knew what the Americans were going to do to yoga, he would have left it in the caves with the hermits."

*The Association of Fitness Professionals of the Philippines will hold a Fitness Seminar on Sept. 21 at Bahay ng Alumni Building, UP-Diliman. Topics for gym instructors are "Why Women Gain Weight," "Preventing Foot and Ankle Injuries," "Exercise and Infections," and "All about Cellulite." Topics for group exercise are "Kickboxing," "Latin Aerobics," "Stretch and Tone," and "High-Low Impact." Novice instructors can join a seminar on "How to Teach a Fusion Mind-Body Class" (a review of basic yoga and Pilates moves). Call Ivy at 850-7647.*

*Watch "In Fitness & in Health" on Studio 23, Monday to Friday, from 6-6:30 a.m.*

*For questions, past articles and exercises, go to www.tinajuanfitness.com*

*Take Charge Doc!*

Nicky S. Montoya, M.D.

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FAQs (frequently asked questions)

*Where can I find an accredited optometrist?*

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Meet your MEDICard Team

If you are in need of a Dermatologist at Manila Central University Hospital, look for **Dr. Diana Jean D. Del Rio.** Doc Diana has been a member of MEDICard's medical service team since 1998. She finished her degree in Medicine at the University of Santo Tomas and her residency training for her specialization at Jose Reyes Memorial Medical Center. She is a Fellow to the Philippine Dermatological Society and the Philippine Society of Cutaneous Medicine, and a lifetime member to the Philippine Medical Association. Dr. Del Rio is married to Urologist Dr. Rodney Del Rio, with whom she has four wonderful children. You may visit her clinic at Room 6 of the MCU Hospital, every Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays, from 2 to 5 in the afternoon.

MEDICard's on-call anesthesiologist based at St. Luke's Medical Center (SLMC) is **Dr. Lulu Joan Calud-Mamaril.** Dr. Mamaril or simply Doc Joan for short, has been a part of MEDICard's medical service team for more than 10 years now. She finished Medicine at UERM-MMC and took her specialization training for anesthesiology at SLMC. She is a proud member of the Philippine Society of Anesthesiologists and the Philippine Medical Association. Doc Joan is married to Dr. Albert Mamaril, MEDICard accredited Ophthalmologist who is also based at SLMC, and with whom she has three children, Angelica, Charlene and Samuel. Outside her clinical practice, she is fond of shopping, singing, sports activities and spending quality time with her family.

**Dr. Sabas Parena Adanzo Jr.** is MEDICard's Medical Coordinator at the Norzagaray Emergency Hospital in Norzagaray, Bulacan. Dr. Adanzo, known simply as Doc Jun has been in the medical profession for more than 20 years now. He earned his degree as Doctor of Medicine at UERM-MMC. He pursued his residency training for his specialization in General Surgery at the AFP Medical Center (formerly V. Luna General Hospital). He also subspecializes in Plastic Surgery. Doc Jun is a lifetime member of the Philippine Medical Association. He is also a member of the Philippine Hospital Association and the Private Hospitals Association of the Philippines. He is a family man and believes in the value of spending quality time with his children and wife Haide. For all your out-patient medical needs at the Norzagaray Emergency Hospital, look for MEDICard Medical Coordinator Dr. Sabas Adanzo.

**We encourage all MEDICard members to voice out their concerns and issues at hand. BE HEAR D AND BE READ. You can write DR. NICKY S. MONTOYA at 9/F Sagittarius Bldg. H.V. De la Costa St., Salcedo Village, Makati City or e-mail him at inquiry@medicardphils.com. For feedback on availment of our services, e-mail us at feedback@medicardphils.com.**

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# Science can never explain spiritual occurrences

## INNER AWARENESS

*Jaime T. Licauco*

MY column on Aug. 27 elicited some strong reactions from readers. Here's one from Rufi Vigilar rvigilar@yahoo.com:

"I read with interest your article about a professor-friend who refuses to believe in a reality outside of scientific logic. I have experienced paranormal phenomena myself, and I believe that scientific logic is extremely limited.

"We should always begin on the assumption that human knowledge cannot but be limited, and that other realities beyond the reach and grasp of scientific logic are possible. Actually, scientific logic is in itself proof of the limits of human knowledge.

"Perhaps your professor-friend could explain in scientific terms how and why stones the size of a fist would fall out of nowhere inside the family home—usually on the stairs but also in other parts of the house. No damage was ever done, but I still wonder to this day about the cause of that illogical nuisance. Would you have any thoughts on this occurrence?"

I will answer that question after tackling the bigger issue you raised regarding the limitations of scientific logic to which I completely agree.

Science has given us tremendous knowledge about the nature of the physical universe. Material progress would not have been possible without it. For this, we should be thankful.

But science and the scientific method were never meant to explain nonmaterial or spiritual occurrences. To try to do so would be to extend its use beyond what it was originally intended to be. As well-known comic character Charlie Brown said: "You can't use old math thinking to solve new math problems." And this is what materialist scientists have been trying to do in vain. They want to put our minds in a straitjacket by claiming that nothing, which cannot be explained rationally and cannot be analyzed in the laboratory under repeatable conditions, can be true!

Actually, there are so many recorded paranormal and scientifically unexplainable things that happen all over the world. And these have been happening from the beginning of time. I can name a few, such as materialization, tele-portation, astral projection, miraculous healing, mental telepathy, clairvoyance, telekinesis, thoughtography, remote viewing, angelic apparition and many others. These occurrences have been observed, verified and documented by impartial and serious scientific investigators worldwide.

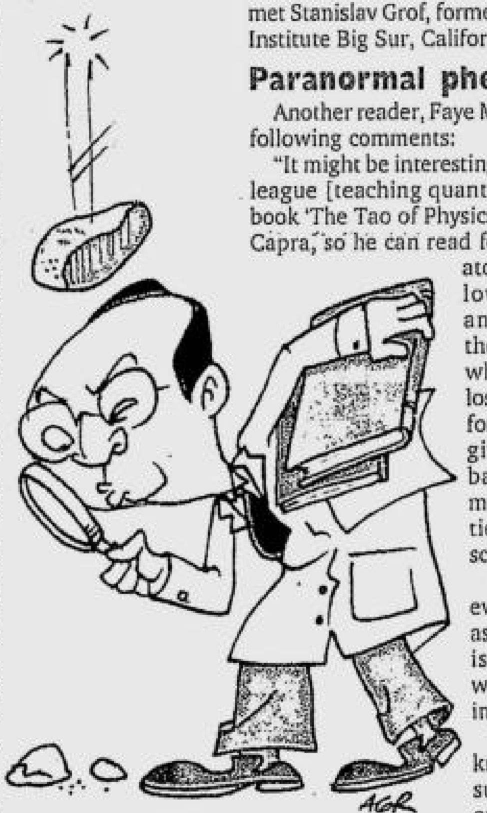

ILLUSTRATION- ALBERT RODRIGUEZ

The trouble with critics of paranormal and psychic phenomena is that they have never bothered to look at, nor have they studied deeply, the huge body of evidence proving the existence of such things.

They prefer to ignore the evidence and, like an ostrich, bury their heads in the sand rather than take a look at it in the face. It is easier and more mentally reassuring that way. They do not have to risk the possible collapse of their chosen worldview or paradigm.

Actually, I have no quarrel with science and the scientific method. They are perfect as far as discovering and explaining the nature of the physical universe. We cannot ignore their value. Our modern way of life is dependent on them. My quarrel is with the narrow and unscientific attitude of some scientists who prefer to ignore phenomenon that does not fall within their limited concept of what constitutes reality.

Allow me to quote here the words of a noted astronaut and scientist, Eddie Mitchell, the sixth man on the moon, about his own mystical or nonrational experience, which profoundly changed his view about the nature of the universe:

"When I went to the moon, I was as pragmatic a test pilot, an engineer and a scientist as any of my colleagues. More than a quarter of a century had been spent in learning the empirical approach to dealing with the universe. Many times, my life has depended upon the validity of scientific principles and reliability of the technology built upon those principles... There were moments during the night when I felt an amazed and profound respect for the rational abilities of the human intellect that it could find ways to guide a tiny metal capsule through half a million miles of space with such precision and accuracy. Yes, I was pragmatic because my experience had shown, beyond all question, that science works.

"But there was another aspect to my experience during Apollo 14, and it contradicted the 'pragmatic engineer' approach. It began with the breathtaking experience of seeing planet Earth floating on the vastness of space. The first thing that came to my mind as I looked at Earth was its incredible beauty. Even the spectacular photographs did not do it justice. It was a majestic sight—a splendid blue and white jewel suspended against a velvet black sky...

"In a peak experience, the presence at divinity beckons almost palpable, and I knew that life in the universe was not just an accident based on random process. This knowledge came to me directly—noetically. It was not a matter of discursive reasoning or logical abstraction. It was an experiential cognition. It was a knowledge gained through private subjective awareness, but it was and still is every bit as real as objective data upon which, say, the navigational program or the communications system were based. Clearly, the universe has meaning and direction. It was not perceptible by the sensory organs, but it was there nevertheless—an unseen dimension behind the visible creation that gives it an intelligent design and that gives life purpose."

When Mitchell returned to earth, he resigned from Nasa and founded the Institute of Noetic Sciences now based in Sausalito, California. Its purpose was to explore those undiscovered phenomena, such as the nature of consciousness including the paranormal, which are completely ignored by orthodox science. I was once invited to address this group of very serious but open-minded scientists in the mid-'90s. It was then headed by the late Dr. Willis Harman. That was the time I also met Stanislav Grof, former president of Esalen Institute Big Sur, California.

### Paranormal phenomena

Another reader, Faye Miravile, e-mailed the following comments:

"It might be interesting to give your ex-colleague [teaching quantitative analysis] the book 'The Tao of Physics' by physicist Fritjof Capra, so he can read for himself how subatomic physics, not his lowly quantitative analysis, has reached the point of admitting what the oriental philosophies have believed for centuries. This will give him a 'scientific' basis for opening his mind to the other 'realities' not explained by science.

"And by the way, even Plato, for as much as I love his philosophy, is still 'in the box' of western dualistic thinking."

I agree with her. Unknown to many, even such great men of science as Isaac Newton, Thomas Edison, William Crookes, William James and Carl Jung, have also explored paranormal and spiritual phenomena and believed in their existence.

For those who are interested in looking further at the wealth of material and scientific data on these subjects, I would also recommend the following books: "Psychic Exploration, A Challenge to Science" edited by John White, with an excellent introduction by Edgar Mitchell; "Parapsychology, Your Total Guide to the Incredible World of the Paranormal," edited by Martin Ebon; "Science Looks at ESP" by Henry Pierce; "Parapsychology, The Controversial Science" by Richard S. Broughton, Ph.D.; "Mysticism and the New Physics" by Michael Talbot, and "The Dancing Wu Li Masters" by Gary Zukav. The last named book provides an excellent overview of modern physics from a layman's standpoint.

These books may not be available in the Philippines but one may explore amazon.com on the Internet.

Now, to answer reader Vigilar's question. Objects appearing out of nowhere are called "apports."' Usually, they appear during spiritualist seances or in healers' clinics during psychic surgery. The process involved in the production of such phenomena is called "materialization." Usually, this is due to spirit intervention. Yes, there is a good number of documented evidence regarding apports and materializations. They are not mere products of one's overactive imagination.

*Note: If readers wish a personal answer to their letters, please enclose a self-addressed stamped envelope. Otherwise, they will be answered in this column.*

*Address letters to this column to 308 Prince Plaza 1, 106 Legaspi St., Greenbelt, Makati City or e-mail jlicauco@edsamail.com.ph. Visit my new website at http://j.licauco.tripod.com. Listen to my DZMM radio program every Sunday, 6-8 p.m.*

# WEEKLY DOSAGE

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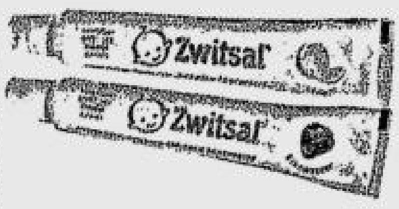

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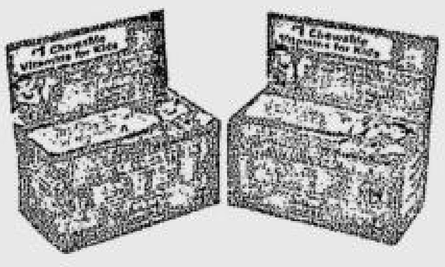

**FLINTSTONES** vitamins recently launched Flintstones Complete. It contains 12 vitamins and 7 minerals, which are essential for the growth and development of children. It comes in six flavors and seven character shapes. Flintstones is also available in Starter (for 1- to 3-year-olds) and Plus Iron (for 4- to 10-year-olds) variants. Call the Kid's Nutrition Advisory hotline at 450-3635/3605.

**ENAT** Vitamin E is a new natural Vitamin E brand manufactured and marketed by Mega Philippines. Recent studies reveal that Vitamin E in supplement form like ENAT reduces the occurrence of stroke and heart attack among those without any known heart problem, and prevents another risk of heart attack on those with confirmed heart disease. Call 837-8550.

**NATIVA** Green Tea is now available in three flavors: Tea/Lemon juice mix combines the benefits of citrus fruit; Ginko has the *ginko biloba* herb, a known memory enhancer; and Redbush, which is caffeine-free. Nativa Green Tea is exclusively imported by Fly Ace Corp. and is available at leading supermarkets nationwide.

*MALUNGGAY*, a highly nutritious vegetable popularly used to increase breast milk production, is now available in capsule form called Pro-Lacta (*malunggay*), a food supplement for breastfeeding mothers, which contains 350 mg of *malunggay* (Moringa oleifera Lam) powdered leaves. It is nurtured in organic and environment-friendly farms and processed in capsules in BFAD-certified pharmaceutical facility complying with Current Good Manufacturing Practice (CGMP) standard. It is available at all Mercury Drugstores and other leading drugstores nationwide. Call 411-9907 or 920-1911 to 15.

## Sky meditation classes set on Sept. 22 and 29

A BREAKTHROUGH in yoga and meditation, Siddha Kundalini Yoga is the divine path for emancipation of freedom from all bondage and limitations. Once the Siddha Guru awakens the Kundalini Shakti inherent in each individual, it makes it easier for him/her to become connected to the higher divine energies. Changes in life, behavior and attitudes take place in the individual. Even the adverse environmental factors and impediments start getting cleared, and people become happier and healthier.

Sky Meditation is now here in Manila. Karuna Reiki Master Charu Kumar Gupta of India has held several Sky meditation classes in various provinces and regions of India. After propagating and creating awareness in Reiki healing last year, she will now teach the new healing techniques of Sky Meditation. Charu is here in the Philippines on a limited engagement.

Clean Body Clean Mind (CBCM) Health and Fitness Center will be the venue for Sky Meditation on Sept. 22 and Sept. 29, 9-11 a.m.

CBCM is located at 3/F 615 Boni Ave. corner Sikap St., Mandaluyong City, with tel. 535-5727/578-6986.

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The draw was held last August 10, 2002 at the MasterCard activity booth and was witnessed by DTI Representative Mr. Ferdinand Manfoste.

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# Gary V's 'bitter' struggle with diabetes

**By Allison W. Lopez**

FOR 24 years now, he has been injected with insulin that he can already see needle punctures on his arms.

"Like a thorn in the flesh," says singer Gary Valenciano, describing his struggle with diabetes.

At 14, he was diagnosed with Type 1 (juvenile/insulin-dependent) diabetes. Since then, his sugar level has been constantly monitored and his diet controlled. His life has never been the same again.

"Diabetes has kept my feet on the ground. If I didn't have this, I'd be a smoker because I used to smoke. Actually, diabetes can be emotionally frustrating. I inject about 65 units of insulin daily, two or three times a day. I stay away from high-calorie fatty foods and check my sugar level at least thrice a day," Gary reveals.

Living a life with diabetes has not been easy for Gary or his family, until they learned of ABS (Active Bitter Supplement) Herbs capsules, a food supplement.

LEMENT for DIABETES • HYPERTENTION • ASTHMA • ARTHRITIS
ABS HERBS
ACTIVE BITTER
AYA & VEGETABL
IN CAPSULE

FROM LEFT: Pastor Ed Lapis, ABS Gen consultant; Gary V; Grace Gupana, VP of ABS Gen International; Paul Gupana, president of ABS Gen International; and Dr. Excelsior Valdez, asst. CEO, Medical Missions Hospital, Nueva Vizcaya

PHOTOS: JOAN BONDOC

"Gary never liked *ampalaya* that much, even if I cooked it every day in every way. So, when I came upon these bitter herbs, we talked about it, and he couldn't refuse," says Angeli Pangilinan, Gary's wife.

When Gary began taking ABS, he noticed that his insulin intake lessened by about 30 percent. "In the morning, I take two kinds of insulin, Humulin-R and Humulin-N. In the evening, I used to take 10 units of R and 15 units of N, and now it's down to six to seven units of R and 10 units of N. And in the morning, my insulin intake has decreased, too," he says.

Enjoying life to the fullest, Mr. Pure Energy never allowed his illness to get in the way

UPPLEMEN
S HER

**FOR GARY V,** taking ABS doesn't mean you should start indulging in sweets and neglecting your diet.

The most popular diabetic in the country, Gary knows he just couldn't endorse any product. So, deciding to endorse ABS herbs had not been easy either. "We have been offered many herbal products before, but I've been taking ABS for two years and I've experienced its effects. I also consulted my doctor, who said 'Be careful with what you endorse because people might look at it as a drug.' Now that I'm endorsing ABS, some people might say, 'Ah, Gary's taking it, so I'll take some, too' and then use ABS as an excuse to splurge. ABS shouldn't be used to replace whatever they're doing now—it should just be an add-on," he clarifies.

## Better life

ABS is a potent herbal dietary supplement combining seven herbs in capsulized form. It is not intended to treat, cure or prevent any particular disease. "This is not just any food supplement; this is Filipino-made. For the first time, I don't hear anybody saying, '*Ah, gimik lang yan eh*' or '*Mas* okay *itong galing sa…*' No! This is something that even other countries are looking into, and they're saying, 'Can we have some of that 'cause we can't grow that since our climate does not fit that kind of herb,'" Gary says.

ABS contains *ampalaya* (bitter melon), king of bitters (*andrographis paniculata)*, turmeric *(luyang dilaw)*, saluyot (*corchorus oliturius)*, *yerba buena* (peppermint), *lagundi (vitex naeundo)* and *malunggay (moringga olifera)*.

ABS is believed to be the best prevention against diabetes, asthma and arthritis, if taken on a regular basis. This product is BFAD-approved, and also boasts of being the first and only Filipino *ampalaya* product recognized, approved and accepted internationally as "diabetes food supplement" at the National Product Expo West, Anaheim, California, US.

ABS was named the Most Outstanding Herbal-Based Product by the National Consumers Quality Award 2002, while Charagen *ampalaya* capsule received the same award for 2001.

Husband and wife Paul and Grace Gupana are the driving forces behind ABS Gen Herbs Int'l., the makers of these quality herbal products.

"ABS is very affordable, *lalo na sa mga* Pinoy. It only costs P480 a box (40 capsules), compared to foreign herbal products. It is now available at all Mercury Drug Store outlets and other leading drug stores," Grace says.

By detoxifying the body and cleansing the system, ABS Bitter Herbs strengthens the immune system while lowering cholesterol levels and neutralizing body fats. It is also known for reducing blood sugar levels, restoring pancreatic function, increasing stamina and promoting longevity.

Singer and TV host Nonoy Zuñiga, who is a doctor by profession, and sportscaster Chino Trinidad, confirm the efficacy of ABS.

In their testimonials, Zuñiga says he used to have allergic rhinitis and productive cough when he woke up in the morning. "Being in the medical field, I took the best and most expensive medicines, but to no avail. After taking four capsules of ABS for three days, I started to breathe better and the cough was gone," he says. Meanwhile, Trinidad says that ABS helped check his unusually high uric acid level, and that it is a good food supplement, which helps fight gout and arthritis.

## More sedentary

According to a 1997 study, an estimated 4 million Filipinos share Gary V's plight, but only 25 percent are aware of their condition and have access to proper treatment. It also listed diabetes as one of the top 10 causes of death in 1997.

Diabetes, heart disease, stroke and cancers—diseases related to inactive living and unhealthy diet—now account for "six out of 10 deaths in Asia and the Pacific," says Dr. Shigeru Omi, WHO regional director. "These diseases were rare less than 50 years ago," he adds.

Nowadays, more people are tied to their desk-bound jobs, ride cars, buses or trains instead of walking, while children choose the computer and TV over the playground.

"I would really advise the youth to get physically active. Get physical! Don't wait until you have a potbelly. There are consequences to all of that," Gary says. "ABS is just a supplement. We still have to take care of ourselves through exercise and proper diet."

And that's what Gary V did—he plays basketball, golf and regularly goes to the gym. "Diabetics should not lose hope. We should serve as inspiration to others. So if you really want to enjoy life to the fullest, make sure you're healthy enough to do so."

ABS
HER
E BITTER
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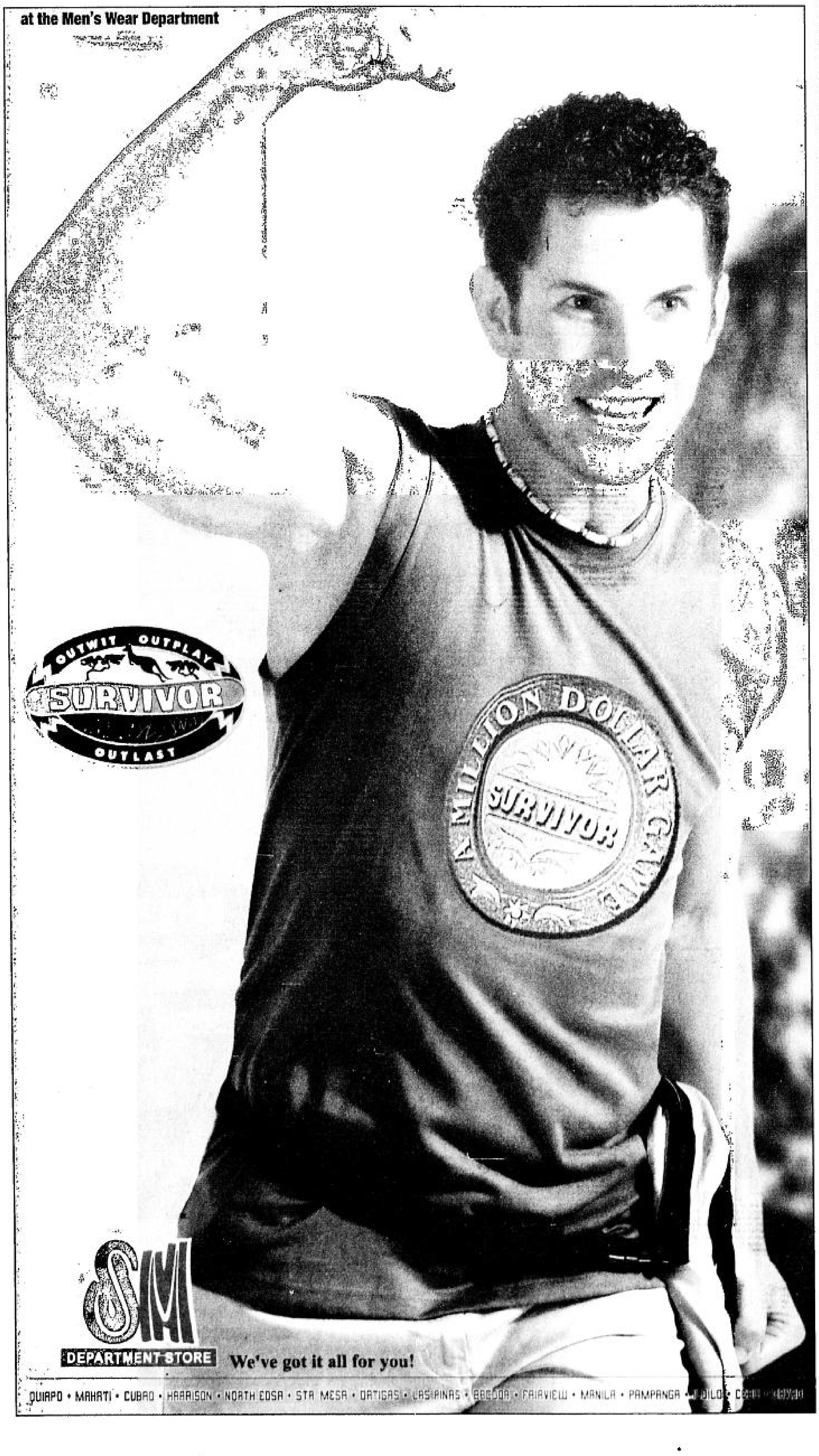
GARY V with wife Angeli Pangilinan



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